DH
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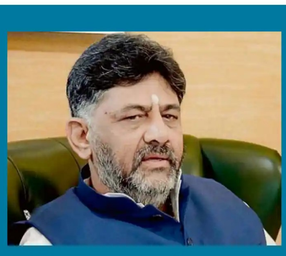

Allow K'taka to raise Almatti dam height: DKS

Page 4

BJP govt spent Rs 30 cr on PM's 1-day state visit

Ferrying crowds by buses for events ahead of 2023 polls, among expenses

DH SPECIAL

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE & POLITICAL POSTURE

Shivamogga airport inauguration — Rs 18.81 cr

Road show and event in Belagavi — Rs 14.33 cr

Timeline of RTI application

- **03-03-2023** Application filed
- **10-04-2023** First appeal filed
- **29-05-2023** - Second appeal before Karnataka Information Commission (KIC)
- **16-09-2025** - KIC rules in favour of applicant
- **14-01-2026** - Information given to applicant

Three months ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections in Karnataka, the BJP government spent about Rs 33 crore on two events headlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with over Rs 6.5 crore spent just to ferry people to the events.

Documents accessed under the RTI after a three-year struggle by Manjunath Hirechowti of Lanchamukta Karnataka show that the expenditure for the inauguration of the Shivamogga airport on February 27, 2023, where Modi asked people to "vote for double engine government in future too", stood at Rs 18.81 crore.

The expenses include 1,800 buses hired at a cost of Rs 4.11 crore to bring people from various places for Modi's event. Over Rs 1.8 crore was spent for two heads of works: Water-proof German structure truss pandal for the main stage dais and green room, model presentation stalls and flower decoration for the prime minister, governor, chief minister and others.

The documents also showed that the Public Works Department had obtained exemption under section 4(G) of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act.

Hours later, Modi flew to Belagavi by a special flight from Shivamogga and took a chopper to the ground from where he commenced a roadshow at about 2.45 pm. While the air travel expenses were unavailable, another set of documents obtained under RTI Act showed that the PWD department received approval of the government to spend Rs 14.35 crore, including Rs 2.5 crore towards buses to carry people to the programme.

Hirechowti filed the RTI application for the Shivamogga event's expenditure in March 2023 but managed to get it only in January 2026 after successfully getting a favourable order by the Karnataka Information Commission. Speaking to *DH*, he expressed concern over the lack of transparency and accountability.

"Public money is not a campaign resource. Development projects must not become platforms for political projection in the months leading up to elections. India needs a statutory pre-election expenditure control mechanism, as there is no financial restraint before the model code of conduct comes into force. Without reform, taxpayers will continue to bear the burden of politically timed extravagance," he said.

To a question, the then PWD minister C C Patil said he could not remember the specifics of the expenditure. "I will get the information in this matter and respond," he said.

Asked about the expenses, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said he will look into the possibility of limiting such expenditure but said it might not be easy.

"After I took over, I have put an end to the exemptions from the KTPP Act. However, limiting expenditure in the case of prime ministers may be difficult. I will look into the expenditure files and decide on the matter," he said.

Budget: As fiscal belt tightens, CM looks to make do with limits

BENGALURU, DHNS: Facing a revenue shortfall amid rising expenditure commitments, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will have to overcome severe fiscal limitations in the 2026-27 Budget, which he is slated to present this Friday.

This will be Siddaramaiah's record 17th outgoing as the finance minister.

In 2025-26, the government estimated a total expenditure of Rs 4.09 lakh crore. This may be lowered to about Rs 3.9 lakh crore.

According to the chief minister's economic advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi, the government is likely to end up with a revenue shortfall of Rs 18,000 crore in the current fiscal. He blamed this on the GST rate rationalisation in September last year.

Details on Page 5

ENERGY RATE

Category of consumers	Tariff for 2024-25 (In Rs per unit)	Tariff announced for 2025-26 in March, 2025 (In Rs per unit)	Revision according to new order (In Rs per unit)
Agricultural pump sets	6.81	8.3	**7.43***
Commercial (LT)	8	7	**7.1**
Industry (LT)	6.1	4.5	**5.2**
Industry (HT)	6.9	6.6	**6.7**
Commercial (HT)	8	5.95	**6.9**

* average across five ESCOMs

KERC hikes commercial, industrial power tariffs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has reviewed its March 2025 order and increased the power tariff for industrial and commercial establishments between 10 paisa and 95 paisa and brought down the tariff on agricultural pump sets by an average of 87 paisa from the earlier Rs 8.30 per unit. The KERC passed the order on Tuesday after hearing the review petitions filed by the ESCOMs.

According to the 2025 order, the power tariff for agricultural pump sets had increased by as much as Rs 1.5. The ESCOMs subsequently filed a review petition stating that the commission had increased the tariff for agricultural pump sets without considering the extent of government subsidy for these pump sets. At the increased rate, the expenditure on agricultural pump sets would go up to Rs 20,640 while the government had only earmarked Rs 16,021, they said.

▸ **Power tariffs, Page 6**

MoD inks Rs 5k-cr deal for choppers, missiles

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Defence Ministry on Tuesday inked two contracts worth more than Rs 5,000 crore to buy surface to air missiles from Russia for frontline naval ships and six Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for the Indian Coast Guard.

While the acquisition of six ALH from HAL would cost Rs 2,901 crore, the ministry will pay Rs 2,181 crore to Russia to buy more Shtil missiles for the warships.

The contract for ALH Mk-III (maritime role) includes operational role equipment, an engineering support package, and performance-based logistics support, according to a Defence Ministry statement.

"These twin-engine helicopters incorporate state-of-the-art features superior to the currently operated airborne platforms,," it said.

ON THE BLOCK

BDA aims to earn Rs 550 cr from 16 site auctions

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to raise funds, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has proposed to sell as many as 16 large parcels of sites – ranging between 7,620 square feet and a little more than 3.6 acres – to the highest bidders. In all, the BDA hopes to generate a minimum of Rs 550 crore, which comes a month after it sold about 52 acres in Konadasapura, off Old Madras road, for Rs 2,097 crore.

According to the BDA's notification, the sites are situated in places like JP Nagar 8th Phase (Kothanur), JP Nagar 9th Phase, Banashahari 3rd stage (Kathriguppe), Further Extension of Anjanapura (Gollahalli), BTM 4th Stage, RMV 2nd Stage, Thanisandra, Jnanabharathi and Kondasapura.

Under the hammer

- A senior official says idea of auctioning the bulk land was not just to earn revenue but also to encourage multi-dwelling units
- There are however questions over whether the 16 sites fall under the ambit of 'commercial
- At least 14 sites are part of residential layouts
- Doubts raised over the BDA's e-auction list which has plots that are as big as three acres

The largest plot -- spread across 14,669 square metres -- is situated in JP Nagar 9th Phase (Thippasandra) and the smallest site -- 708 square metres -- is located in Arkavathi Layout in North Bengaluru.

This e-auction of bulk land, which has already kick-started, is a rare move by the BDA, which is hoping to mop up revenue to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore by the end of this financial year. The authority – whose mandate is to provide affordable housing to the residents of Bengaluru – generally auctions residential sites, especially corner sites, but these sites do not often exceed the standard 30x40 sq ft or 40x60 sq ft.

A senior BDA official said the idea of auctioning the bulk land was not just to earn revenue but also to encourage multi-dwelling units given the scarcity of land.

▸ **BDA, Page 6**

Govt inks mega deal for ALHs, Russian missiles

Rs 2,901-crore HAL deal to strengthen coast guard

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Defence Ministry on Tuesday signed two contracts worth over Rs 5,000 crore to procure surface-to-air missiles from Russia for frontline naval ships and six Dhruv advanced light helicopters (ALHs) from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for the Indian Coast Guard.

While the acquisition of six ALHs from HAL will cost Rs 2,901 crore, the ministry will pay Rs 2,181 crore to Russia to buy more Shtil missiles for the warships.

The contract for ALH Mk-III (maritime role) includes operational role equipment, an engineering support package, and performance-based logistics support, according to a Defence Ministry statement.

"These twin-engine helicopters incorporate state-of-the-art features superior to the currently operated airborne platforms and are capable of undertaking a wide spectrum of maritime security missions from shore-based airfields as well as from ships at sea," it said.

The Indian Coast Guard currently has 16 ALHs in its inventory, and the induction of another six would enhance the force's ability to protect artificial islands, offshore installations, fishermen and the marine environment, sources said.

DEFENCE ARSENAL

- Acquisition of six ALHs from HAL will cost Rs 2,901 crore, the ministry will pay Rs 2,181 crore to Russia for Shtil missiles
- Indian Coast Guard currently has 16 ALHs in its inventory
- Bid to substantially enhance the maritime and air defence capabilities of frontline warships against a wide spectrum of threats

The agreement for more ALHs comes at a time when Dhruv choppers operated by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard have only recently been permitted to fly — subject to conditions such as inspections after every 100 hours of flying — after staying grounded for nearly a year in the wake of two back-to-back accidents.

The Defence Ministry also signed a contract with JSC Rosoboronexport for the procurement of surface-to-air vertical launch — Shtil missiles and associated missile holding frames, valued at Rs 2,182 crore.

The acquisition is intended to substantially enhance the air defence capabilities of frontline warships against a wide spectrum of aerial threats. The air-defence missile is in use in Talwar, Tushil and Shivalik class frigates.

"The new missiles will reinforce the layered air defence architecture onboard the Indian Navy ships by providing rapid-reaction, all-weather engagement capability and improved survivability in contested maritime environments," the Defence Ministry said.

TN transfers Rs 2,000 special aid to 40 lakh ahead of polls

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In raining sops ahead of the Assembly elections, the DMK dispensation on Tuesday credited Rs 2,000 as a special summer incentive to elderly pensioners, widows, aged transgender persons, and persons with disabilities.

The decision comes two weeks after the government credited Rs 3,000 as advance payments for February, March, and April, and Rs 2,000 is a "special summer assistance" for beneficiaries of the Rs 1,000 monthly assistance. About 40 lakh people will be benefitted from the fresh announcement.

While about 29.29 lakh elderly and widows have received 3,200 rupees each along with their monthly pension of Rs 1,200, about 5.92 lakh persons with disabilities have received Rs 3,500 each, and about 2.58 lakh families of persons with severe disabilities receiving maintenance support have received 4,000 each, Chief Minister M K Stalin said.

Since he assumed office in 2021, Stalin has been focussed on schemes that directly benefit women, such as the free travel in town buses, Rs 1,000 monthly assistance, and free breakfast for children in government schools, which eases their burden.

BJP fields Nitin Nabin for RS, drops five sitting MPs

Party names nine candidates across six states

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

BJP president Nitin Nabin is set to enter the Rajya Sabha, with the party on Tuesday announcing his candidature from Bihar. The party dropped five sitting MPs in three states, while one was retained.

Besides Nabin, the BJP named eight more candidates from Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Odisha and West Bengal. The party has not declared nominees for the March 16 Rajya Sabha polls in Maharashtra — where it is assured of a win — as well as in Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh.

With the Opposition lacking numbers in Bihar and Assam to secure a seat each, it remains to be seen whether the BJP will field an additional candidate in these states.

Nabin, currently an MLA in Bihar, was appointed party chief in January, and it was almost certain that he would shift to the Rajya Sabha. Along with Nabin, the party has also announced the candidature of Bihar BJP General Secretary Shivesh Kumar as its second nominee.

Nitin Nabin

PARTY LIST

- Five sitting MPs dropped across Assam, Haryana and Odisha; one retained
- No nominees yet for Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh
- JD(U)-BJP alliance likely to win four of five Bihar seats

Five seats are up for Rajya Sabha elections in Bihar, of which the JD(U)-BJP alliance is poised to win four, owing to its numerical strength in the Assembly. The JD(U) will contest two of the seats that the NDA is expected to win.

In Assam, where the party can comfortably win 2 seats, the BJP has dropped both sitting MPs — Rameshwar Teli, a former Union minister, and senior leader Bhubaneswar Kalita. In their place, the party has nominated PWD Minister Jogen Mohan and MLA Terash Gowalla.

From Odisha, sitting MP Sujeet Kumar has been renominated, while BJP state president Manmohan Samal has been fielded for the second seat, replacing Mamata Mohanta. Both Kumar and Mohanta were former BJD MPs who later joined the BJP.

In West Bengal, former BJP state president Rahul Sinha has been nominated for the lone seat the party can win. While the Trinamool Congress is set to secure four seats, the fifth was held by the CPM, but with no MLA in the Assembly, it cannot send any candidate to the Upper House this time.

In Haryana, the BJP has dropped its two sitting MPs, Kiran Choudhry and Ram Chander Jangra, and instead nominated former Lok Sabha MP Sanjay Bhatia. The ruling BJP can win only one of the two seats in the state, with the second expected to go to the Congress, given the Assembly arithmetic.

Announcing the names, BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh confirmed that the candidates were approved by the party's Central Election Committee.

Wedding dream turns sour for Gujarat interfaith couple

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

An interfaith couple's dream of a simple, normal wedding ran into a controversy in Surat after the story of their proposed marriage, which was to be solemnised in a mass wedding as per Hindu rituals, was allegedly advertised by the trust.

The couple has alleged that the trust held a press conference where they were forced to speak to the media, which led to the controversy. They claimed that the trust later dropped their names after the backlash and threats.

The couple, a Hindu boy and a Muslim girl, have alleged in a viral video that the Yashvi Foundation Charitable Trust forced them to speak to the media despite knowing how sensitive their interfaith union was.

Fearing for their safety, the couple has sought police protection, apprehensive that their lives are at risk due to objections from members of the community. Some Muslim organisations have also warned against the wedding.

In the video clip, the couple accuse the trust of putting them in the controversy merely for a "TRP stunt." The girl is heard saying that the whole episode has left her in a situation where she can't even leave her home comfortably.

In the purported video, the couple can be heard saying that they registered for the wedding with the foundation and were told that they would be married on March 14.

"We never meant to hurt the religious feelings of any community. We just wanted to get married. On February 25, they forced us to speak to the media and the journalists who were present there were told that ours was a case of Hindu-Muslim, which would give a good lead. For the next two days, news channels, social media and newspapers carried out interviews. People started reacting very badly. After seeing negative reactions, we went to meet Yashvi Foundation at their office, where Gaytriben (of the trust) and her team refused to take any responsibility," they added.

The girl alleged that they discovered their names had been dropped from the marriage list through social media.

However, the foundation have denied the allegations, stating that they removed the couple's name from the list because the girl's mother withdrew her consent, citing proposed amendments to the Gujarat Marriage Registration Act, 2006.

FELINE FEAR

Kerala cat bite cases up fivefold in a decade

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Stray dog bites have become a serious concern across the country, but in terms of numbers, cat bites are far higher in Kerala.

In 2025, as many as 5.9 lakh people in the state suffered cat bites, compared to 3.69 lakh dog bite cases. Of these, 1.04 lakh were stray dog bites, while the remaining 2.65 lakh involved domestic dogs.

Animal rights activist Angels Nair, who obtained the data through RTI queries from the Kerala Health Services Directorate, said that an analysis of the last 10 years shows cat bite cases have increased more than fivefold, while dog bite cases have only doubled.

In 2014, cat bite cases stood at 94,971, which has now risen to 5,90,078 in 2025 — an increase of more than fivefold. Dog bite cases, including both domestic and stray, were 1,19,191 in 2014, rising to 3,69,272 in 2025, marking a little over a twofold increase.

The rabies death rate remains highest from stray dog bites, with 16 deaths in 2025, followed by seven from domestic dogs and three from cats. Seven died of rabies caused by other animals. In total, 10.32 lakh people were vaccinated against rabies in 2025.

Nair said there is a general tendency to classify all cases of anti-rabies vaccination as stray dog bites, even though the numbers are much lower compared to cats and domestic dogs. Cat and domestic dog bite cases appear higher, possibly because people often opt for vaccination as a precaution even in cases of scratching or licking.

2025 NUMBERS

- Cat bites: 5,90,078
- Domestic dog bites: 2,64,544
- Stray dog bites: 1,04,728

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Skippers hold the key as SA meet Kiwis

Proteas set for probing spin questions in first T20 WC semifinal clash

Page 14

Israel steps up airstrikes in Tehran

RETALIATION: Iran hits US embassy in Saudi; blasts in Doha, Dubai

DUBAI, AP

Israel stepped up airstrikes against Iranian missile launchers and factories on Tuesday, and Iran retaliated across the Gulf region, disrupting energy supplies and travel.

As explosions rang out in Tehran and in Lebanon - where Israel said it struck Hezbollah militants - the American embassy in Saudi Arabia came under drone attack.

Loud explosions were heard across the cities of Doha, Dubai and Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, according to AFP reporters and residents, as Iran pressed a campaign of missile and drone barrages across the Gulf.

Journalists heard loud explosions reverberating in the Qatari capital and in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates while two residents told AFP they heard explosions in UAE capital Abu Dhabi.

Four days into a war that President Donald Trump suggested would last several weeks but perhaps longer, hundreds of people have been killed, the vast majority in Iran, where information has been limited in part by an internet shutdown.

The spiralling nature of the war raised questions about when and how it would end. Trump seemed to leave open the possibility for more extensive US military involvement, telling the New York Post on Monday that he was not ruling out the possibility of boots on the ground.

The administration has given various objectives. While the initial US-Israeli strikes killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Trump urged Iranians to overthrow their government, senior administration officials have since said regime change was not the goal.

Across Iran's capital, explosions rang out throughout the night into Tuesday, with aircraft heard overhead.

The Israeli military said it conducted a wave of airstrikes on sites that produce and store ballistic missiles, in Tehran and Isfahan. Strikes caused two explosions at a broadcasting facility in Tehran, Iranian state TV said, adding that no one was injured.

▸ Tehran, Page 6

A tall plume of black smoke ascends following an explosion in the Fujairah industrial zone in the UAE on Tuesday. AFP

Widening conflict

- At least 787 killed in Iran in US-Israeli airstrikes so far
- Israel, US strikes hit building of body to elect new Iran supreme leader
- Hezbollah said it had targeted a military facility in Israel
- Iran urges UNSC to take action to stop the war
- Air strikes hit Beirut causing extensive damage to buildings
- Iran's Revolutionary Guards warns of more intense attacks on US forces and Israel
- United Nations nuclear watchdog says key Iranian nuclear site of Natanz suffered recent damage
- Three Indian seafarers killed, one injured amid West Asia tensions
- Qatar declares force majeure, gas supplies to Indian industry cut

> Force cannot solve problems; instead, it creates new ones and leaves serious long-term consequences. The real value of military power lies in preventing war.
>
> **Wang Yi**
> Chinese Foreign Minister

Too late for talks: Trump

US President Donald Trump said that it was "too late" for talks with Iran, writing on his Truth Social platform that Iran's "air defence, Air Force, Navy, and leadership is gone". "They want to talk. I said 'Too Late!'" Trump said -- two days after saying he had agreed to talks after American and Israeli strikes killed Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Puri: India well-stocked with oil

India is well-stocked with crude oil and has adequate inventories of key petroleum products, including petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), to deal with short-term disruptions, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday. Oil prices surged to over $85 a barrel.

Details on Page 12

India flags trade, energy concerns

NEW DELHI, DHNS: As the conflict in West Asia intensified, India voiced concern on Tuesday over the potential consequences for its economy due to possible disruptions in energy supplies, even as the government called for 'dialogue and diplomacy' to resolve the conflict.

While emphasising the interest of one crore Indian nationals in the region, India said it is in touch with the governments in the region as well as other key partners.

The Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister held discussions with their counterparts on the crisis, a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Noting that New Delhi has high stakes in the security and stability of West Asia and the current developments evoke great anxiety, the ministry said that New Delhi will continue to closely monitor the evolving situation and take relevant decisions in the national interest.

"We raise our voice clearly in favour of an early end to the conflict. Already, many lives have been regrettably lost and we express our grief in that regard," the statement said.

▸ India, Page 6

Over 35 Indian-flagged ships stuck in Persian Gulf P.7
Israel sends troops into southern Lebanon P.11
Airspace closures strand Indian travellers P.12

Chinnaswamy to host five RCB games, IPL final

Franchise will play two league matches in Raipur

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ending months of speculation about whether the Royal Challengers Bengaluru would play their home matches in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League in the city, the franchise announced on Tuesday that the M Chinnaswamy Stadium would host the defending champions' first five games in the league phase.

"As per prior commitment," the franchise said, "the two 'home matches' will be played in Raipur."

In a media address later in the evening, Karnataka State Cricket Association president B K Venkatesh Prasad confirmed that a play-off match and the final would also be held at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, which is under renovation at the moment.

"I want to give you one of the most awaited bits of news, the Royal Challenges Bengaluru have finally confirmed that they are going to play this year's IPL 2026 in Bengaluru," said Prasad.

"For me personally, it is a huge achievement. Probably this is much bigger than my five-wicket haul against England at Lords. The opening game and the opening ceremony will be staged here, and the play-off will also be played in Bengaluru. And the biggest news is that the final of IPL will also be played in Bengaluru."

Prasad said the dates for the event will be shortly announced and this is what the BCCI has committed to them.

Doubts persisted over RCB's willing to play their home matches in the city following the June 4 stampede that killed 11 fans during team's celebration of its maiden title victory.

"This significant development comes after months of hard work and close coordination across all authorities concerned," RCB stated in a release.

Another report, Page 13

> For me personally, it is a huge achievement. Probably this is much bigger than my five-wicket haul against England at Lords.
>
> **B K Venkatesh Prasad**
> KSCA president

Indian-American student among 4 killed in Texas shooting

HOUSTON, PTI: A 21-year-old Indian-American student is among four killed in a shooting outside a bar in Austin that is being investigated as a possible act of terrorism.

Savitha Shan, an Austin native and a dual-degree senior at the University of Texas at Austin, was fatally shot when a gunman opened fire in a crowded entertainment district on West Sixth Street on Sunday.

She was described as an outstanding student leader, studying management information systems and economics.

Details on Page 11

Vantara turns One: Year After PM Modi Launch, Rescued Animals Return to Wild

Jamnagar, Gujarat:

On Vantara Foundation Day, marking one year since its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vantara reflects on a year of measurable impact in wildlife rescue, advanced medical care, and science-led conservation. Founded by Anant Mukesh Ambani, Vantara has restored thousands of rescued wild animals to health across species, including big cats, reptiles, primates, birds, and other mammals. Over the past year, its veterinary teams have carried out various complex surgical procedures and

rewilded various animals into their natural habitats, while also returning some animals to the wild following rescue, treatment, and recovery.

In its first year, Anant Ambani has received the prestigious Global Humane Award for his remarkable global contribution to wildlife care and conservation, underscoring a commitment to compassionate, science-led conservation. Vantara's work has also been recognized internationally through memberships with EARAZA and SEAZA, Global Humane Conservation Certification, and the Prani Mitra Award 2025. Beyond recognition, the organisation has focused on building lasting impact, training hundreds of veterinarians in conservation medicine, hosting more than 50 national and international knowledge-sharing events, and engaging thousands of children through outreach programmes designed to inspire the next generation of conservation stewards.

Over the past year, Vantara has rescued animals from distressed and exploitative conditions, while providing world-class veterinary care and long-term, specialised support to over 250 elephants rescued from logging, circuses, rides and begging, many living with arthritis and other age-related ailments. Vantara also provides ongoing care for thousands of crocodiles rescued from overcrowded facilities. With support extending globally as well as across India, Vantara reflects a globally engaged conservation model grounded in compassion, welfare and science.

Designated as the National Referral Centre for Wildlife (West Zone), Vantara has strengthened India's One Health ecosystem by integrating wildlife health into broader disease surveillance and coordinated response systems. Its scientific backbone includes Scientific Laboratory and 11 satellite laboratories, supported by over 70 specialists and processing more than 2,000 diagnostic samples daily, with capabilities spanning bio-banking, next-generation sequencing, molecular diagnostics, pathology, parasitology and toxicology.

Supporting over thousands of animals daily, Vantara produces 1,56,000 kg of high-quality nutrition through fully automated systems, delivered through 50 temperature-controlled vehicles

and managed by 200 qualified professionals, supported by more than 1,000 farmers cultivating fodder and animal feed.

This scale of integrated care is matched by a 200 member round the clock response team that has supported over 50 international rescue operations and 15 Wildlife Rapid Response and Rescue Team deployments.

Conservation is ultimately about giving species a second chance at survival. Over the past year, structured breeding and rewilding programmes have helped restore hope for a large number of endangered species. Among the most meaningful milestones was the release of 53 spotted deer into Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in partnership with the Gujarat Forest Department, as well as the snake-necked turtle rewilding initiative in Indonesia. Each of these efforts reflects Vantara's deep commitment to science-led ecosystem restoration and the careful, compassionate return of wildlife to their natural homes.

When devastating floods struck Punjab, Vantara stood alongside affected communities, supporting humanitarian and disaster response efforts that safeguarded thousands of animals and supported over one million people. This response reinforced a simple but powerful truth: ecological resilience and human wellbeing are deeply interconnected, and caring for one means caring for the other.

One year after its inauguration, Vantara has grown into an integrated, science-led conservation ecosystem, advancing rescue, research, rewilding, and community engagement at scale. At its heart remains a clear and compassionate mission: to create measurable conservation impact that protects wildlife, strengthens communities, and contributes to a more sustainable future in India and around the world.

Uber's transport aggregator licence renewed retrospectively in K'taka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ride-hailing firm Uber said on Tuesday the Karnataka State Transport Authority (KSTA) had renewed its transport aggregator licence under the Karnataka On-Demand Transportation Aggregator Rules, 2016, for five years, retrospectively, — from December 31, 2021, to December 30, 2026.

Uber and its rival, Ola Cabs, had seen their licences expire in 2021. However, both continued operations after the High Court of Karnataka restrained the state government from taking coercive action against them.

The companies have challenged the 2016 aggregator rules, which laid down guidelines for the functioning of app-based ride-hailing platforms. While Uber and its rival Ola cabs were granted the licence in 2016, Ola's licence expired in June 2021 and Uber's in December that year.

UBER SPOKESPERSON

"We are pleased to receive our transport aggregator licence in Karnataka – a state that has been one of Uber's most important markets in India.

According to Rule 4(3), the licence holder was to apply for licence renewal at least 60 days from expiry. But neither company complied, leading to non-renewal of the licence. The rules also require a minimum fleet size, a control room in Bengaluru, and a grievance redress mechanism, among other things.

The Transport Department also started seizing cabs, calling them illegal. Both firms later moved the high court, which restrained the department from taking coercive action against them.

There was also a dispute over the department's insistence that aggregators cannot offer autorickshaw rides under these rules and must instead obtain separate licences for such services.

An Uber spokesperson stated: "We are pleased to receive our transport aggregator licence in Karnataka — a state that has been one of Uber's most important markets in India."

Since entering India in 2013 as a cab ride-hailing service, Uber has expanded into multiple vehicle categories.

Late last year, it introduced metro ticketing in Bengaluru. In 2025, it also integrated its in-app SOS feature with the Bengaluru police to provide emergency assistance to riders and drivers, the spokesperson said.

West Corporation to auction 61 properties

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) will auction 61 properties whose owners have failed to clear their property tax dues.

The auction is scheduled for Friday at the Joint Commissioner's Office, Malleswaram Zone, 26th Cross, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar.

The properties have accumulated pending dues amounting to Rs 94.9 lakh. The owners have not cleared the arrears despite receiving multiple notices from the corporation, which has also issued proclamation notices to them.

Earlier, similar auctions were conducted on February 17 and 21.

Contractors back statewide protest over pending payments

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru City Contractors Association has extended support to the statewide protest by contractors on Friday, demanding release of over Rs 37,000 crore in pending bills.

Contractors in Bengaluru said the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the five corporations owe about Rs 1,500 crore.

"We have extended support by deciding not to undertake any public projects on March 6," GM Nanda Kumar, president of the association in Bengaluru, said.

He said that apart from the Rs 1,500-crore arrears, the GBA has not released 10 per cent of the bills withheld since 2019. "That comes to another Rs 1,000 crore," he said.

The protest will not be indefinite.

The association has decided to continue the protest from April 1, if the payments are not cleared.

Last month, state contractors' association president R Manjunath had stated that the government had not cleared the bills for 2022-23.

The association, he said, had appealed to the chief minister and several Cabinet ministers multiple times, but the issue has not been resolved and no meeting has been called.

Corporation to asphalt MG Rd; traffic police give green signal

Resurfacing expected to take 10 to 15 days

BENGALURU, DHNS

Following sharp criticism over persistent potholes, including the issue being raised during the recent Assembly session, Bengaluru's prominent MG Road is finally set to be asphalted, with the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) granting permission to begin the work.

The resurfacing will be undertaken from Anil Kumble Circle to Trinity Circle, covering nearly two kilometres.

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation plans to close portions of the stretch starting Wednesday to facilitate the work. The project is being executed under the Chief Minister's Nava Nagarothana scheme.

The resurfacing will be undertaken from Anil Kumble Circle to Trinity Circle, covering 2 kilometres. DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

The poor condition of MG Road, particularly the recurring potholes, had drawn attention during the Assembly session, highlighting concerns over the state of one of the city's most high-profile commercial corridors.

Corporation Chief Engineer Vijaykumar Haridas confirmed that formal approval has been received from the traffic police and preparatory work will commence on Wednesday. He said the resurfacing is expected to take 10 to 15 days. The bituminous concrete (BC) layer will be laid in phases over this period to minimise traffic disruption.

Sources said the earlier proposal to implement white-topping along the stretch has been put on hold, as the ageing water supply and sanitary lines would need replacement before such work could be undertaken.

Last month, Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan directed engineers to ensure that roads for which grants have been sanctioned are fully asphalted before the onset of the monsoon.

Jnanabharathi road closed 42 hrs for railway bridge work

BENGALURU, DHNS: Commuters heading towards Bangalore University (BU) from Mysuru Road should brace for diversions this week.

The traffic police will restrict vehicular movement on Jnanabharathi Main Road from 6 pm on Wednesday to noon on Friday to facilitate the replacement of steel girders on the railway bridge.

As per the traffic police, the 42-hour block is essential for public safety during the infrastructure upgrade.

Alternate routes

To BU/Ullal: From Mysuru Road, take a right at Jairamdas Junction, proceed via Muthurayanagar-Govt Press Road, and turn right near BPEd Ground.

To Mysuru Road: From Ullal or Mariyappanapalya, vehicle users must divert at the BU Head Office Circle, proceeding via Nagarabhavi Main Road to reach the Outer Ring Road. The traffic police have advised students and residents to plan for delays on the redirected routes.

Ensure there is no water scarcity this summer, Girinath tells BWSSB

A man fills a tanker to supply water to a locality in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

BENGALURU, DHNS

Senior officials from the Urban Development Department (UDD) have directed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to ensure that there is no water scarcity in Bengaluru this summer.

Tushar Girinath

Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary, UDD, who chaired a review meeting on Tuesday, stressed the importance of taking preventive measures.

"Since the IISc report indicates that groundwater levels may decline in certain areas, it is important to act before the situation goes out of hand," he said.

He also instructed officials to ensure that all RO drinking water plants in the city are serviced and fully operational. In addition, he directed them to expedite the process of facilitating more applications for BWSSB connections.

"Assign an engineer to oversee water supply in the 65 wards that are expected to witness a dip in groundwater levels," he said.

BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar V said the board is prepared for the summer. "We have taken the IISc report seriously and made adequate preparations to ensure there is no water shortage this summer," he said.

KEY DIRECTIVES TO BWSSB

- Ensure all RO drinking water plants in the city are serviced and fully operational.
- Expedite the process of facilitating more applications for BWSSB connections.
- Assign an engineer to oversee water supply in the 65 wards expected to witness a dip in groundwater levels.

GBA requires separate wet & dry waste bins in 3+ floor buildings

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has urged corporations to issue a circular mandating a separate bin for wet and dry waste in buildings with more than three floors.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao issued the directions after holding a public grievance meeting at the Bengaluru East City Corporation.

"After issuing the circulars, the corporations must issue notices to the buildings concerned with the new mandate. Health officials must ensure compliance," Rao said, even though some buildings are already following the rule.

During the meeting, where over 150 grievances were received, citizens raised the long-pending widening of Borewell Road; development of footpaths, especially in KR Puram Zone; resolution of e-khata issues; commercial activities in residential areas such as ECC Road and Pattandur Agrahara; shortage of medical staff at Ramamurthy Nagar government hospital; traffic congestion in Sai Garden Layout because of a wall; and sewage flowing into Boganahalli Lake.

Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh, Additional Commissioner Development Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, additional commissioners, joint commissioners, engineers and officials from revenue, health, engineering, solid waste and town planning departments were present.

Mysuru train disruption

BENGALURU, DHNS: The following MEMU trains will be impacted due to engineering works at the Ramanagaram yard:

Train number 66580 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru will run only up to Channapatna on March 5 and remain cancelled between Channapatna and KSR Bengaluru.

Train number 66579 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram will originate from Channapatna instead of KSR Bengaluru on March 6 and remain cancelled between KSR Bengaluru and Channapatna.

Bengaluru catches final glimpse of 2026's first total lunar eclipse

BENGALURU, DHNS

City sky-gazers on Tuesday witnessed the first total lunar eclipse of 2026.

While the 'Blood Moon' was visible in its full glory across the Pacific and parts of the Americas, Bengalureans glimpsed the eclipse's final stages during moonrise.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (JNP) hosted a special live stream and lecture.

JNP Director BK Guruprasad used illustrations to note that the next total lunar eclipse visible from India will not occur until January 1, 2029.

"Most eclipses in 2027 and 2028 will be partial or penumbral. This was your last chance for a long while to see the 'total' eclipse," he added.

He further explained that the moon entered the Earth's dark central shadow, or 'umbra', at 3.20 pm. The characteristic reddish hue, often called a 'Blood Moon', is caused by Rayleigh scattering, where the Earth's atmosphere filters out blue light and bends red wavelengths toward the lunar surface.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (JNP) hosted a special live stream and lecture, where JNP Director BK Guruprasad engaged the audience with insightful explanations and detailed illustrations. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

"If you were on the moon looking back at Earth, you would not see a dark planet," he noted. "Instead, you would see a black disc surrounded by a brilliant, fiery red ring." This ring is actually the light from every sunrise and sunset occurring on Earth at that moment. This refracted light leaks into Earth's shadow and illuminates the moon, turning it red.

The eclipse began at 2.14 pm and ended at 6.47 pm, lasting for five-and-a-half hours. The moon appeared blood red for about 58 minutes.

This eclipse was visible to most of India as a partial lunar eclipse. The 'Blood Moon' was not visible, except in Northeastern India, where the moon appeared as a blood moon or coppery red moon.

"For Bengaluru, moonrise was around 6.28 pm, but the visible eclipse ended by 6.47 pm. While this was a total lunar eclipse, we witnessed only its final 15 minutes as a partial eclipse. The famous 'Blood Moon' phase was not visible here; we simply saw the moon's partial darkening."

Woman dies in house fire; short circuit suspected

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman died after a fire broke out at her house in North Bengaluru on Monday night, officials said on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Savitha (55). Her husband, DR Ramesh Babu, a contractor, son Vishrut and mother-in-law Sannamma escaped unhurt.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the fire broke out a little after 9.30 pm at their three-storey building in 'D' Block, Rajajinagar. The family lived in a duplex house on the third floor. The houses on the ground and first floors were rented out, police said.

Babu told the police that between 9.30 pm and 10 pm, he was watching TV with Sannamma on the ground floor of their house. The son was on the first floor when he noticed a fire in one of the rooms, following a foul smell.

He alerted Babu and Sannamma, who escaped the house.

"Savitha was stuck on the top floor as the blaze spread, while Vishrut managed to escape. A little later, firefighters arrived, and they got to my wife after dousing the blaze. My wife was unconscious and was taken to the hospital in Malleswaram, where doctors said she had died," Babu told police.

Based on the statement, Subramanya Nagar police registered an Unnatural Death Report (UDR).

"Preliminary probe indicates a short circuit, but an expert opinion is being sought," a senior police officer said.

Two Delhi men arrested for BMTC bus phone thefts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Whitefield police arrested two phone thieves and solved 14 cases, officials said on Tuesday.

The arrested are 25-year-old Jai Chand, who worked at a hotel in Delhi, and 34-year-old Tarun, an autorickshaw driver in Delhi.

Officials said on January 24, a Mahadevapura resident lodged a complaint that his iPhone 15 Plus was stolen while he was travelling on a BMTC bus towards Whitefield.

A case was registered and, within an hour, two suspects were arrested near a lodge on Hosa Road. They were found with a bag containing stolen mobile phones.

"During interrogation, the suspects confessed they were stealing mobile phones from passengers travelling in BMTC buses. They had committed thefts during a concert held under the Channarayapatna police station limits on January 23," police said.

Investigations revealed that the suspects had arrived from Delhi for the concert and stolen mobile phones from the audience. A third suspect is at large and is likely hiding in the Shahdara area of Delhi.

One of the victims, a YouTuber, raised the theft in February in a post on X. "Here is my (FIR No 0013/2026 is registered in Chennarayapatana PS. Your GSC No. is PO1814260100013) request @DelhiPolice @BlrCityPolice to plz look into this & get my device back since it's my work phone & I am a youtuber, all my data is there! someone plz help. @dcpwhitefield," Anirban Sarkar posted on X on February 6.

Police recovered 14 mobile phones of different brands, valued at Rs 9 lakh, from the accused. They were remanded in judicial custody. In total, one case from Whitefield and 13 from Channarayapatna police stations were detected.

WORD OF CAUTION

Doctors warn: Synthetic Holi powders harmful

BENGALURU, DHNS

As resorts, pubs and other establishments in the city host Holi celebrations, doctors warn of health concerns arising from the use of synthetic colour powders.

From skin issues to eye irritation and lung problems, they flag synthetic colours as a cause for concern.

Speaking about widely used synthetic colours available in the market, Dr Priyanka Kuri, Consultant, Dermatology, said: "Most synthetic Holi colours do not meet cosmetic-grade standards because they contain industrial dyes and pigments used for textiles and paints. They contain heavy metal contamination, including lead, chromium and mercury, as these metals improve colour brightness and product durability."

Youth celebrate Holi at Palace Grounds on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Skin issues

Dr Shireen Furtado, Senior Consultant, Medical and Cosmetic Dermatology, said: "Chemical colours contribute to scalp infections due to the presence of harsh chemicals. When colour is applied to the hair and scalp, it can strip away natural oils and damage the skin barrier, making it easier for bacteria or fungi to grow."

After celebrations, tiny red bumps emerge, causing itching and burning, which result in rashes due to contact dermatitis from both irritants and allergens. The fine powder particles block skin pores and hair follicles, further resulting in skin inflammation through folliculitis-type eruptions, she added.

Doctors are suspicious of "organic" and "herbal" colours available in the market due to a lack of consistent definition. The term "natural" does not guarantee that products will not cause allergic reactions. However, products from established companies that provide ingredient lists and avoid bright neon colours can be trusted, said Dr Priyanka.

Eye care

Dr Rohit Narayan, a refractive surgeon, said: "Contact lenses should strictly be avoided while playing with colours, as particles and chemicals can be trapped between lens and cornea, damaging the cornea."

"Blunt trauma is another common injury during Holi celebrations due to the use of water balloons and water guns. Blunt trauma leads to bleeding inside the eye, retinal tears, retinal detachment, fractures, nerve damage and vision loss in extreme cases," he added.

Respiratory issues

Dr Shivaraj AL, Lead Consultant and HoD, Pulmonology, said: "Powders trigger asthma symptoms, and deep inhalation can cause bronchial irritation, wheezing, chest tightness and shortness of breath. Temporary bronchial irritation and airway symptoms are common in healthy people."

He added: "Children have smaller airways, so even minor swelling or inflammation can severely limit their ability to breathe.

"Extra protection is required for children and elderly people with medical conditions living in the area."

Two arrested for house theft

BENGALURU, DHNS: Madanayakanahalli police arrested two people for involvement in house theft cases. Police recovered 711 grams of gold ornaments and Rs 19.5 lakh in cash from them.

Investigation revealed the suspects broke into a house in Anchepalya village in August and stole valuables.

Police first arrested one suspect.

His interrogation led to the arrest of the second suspect at Male Mahadeshwara Hills in Chamarajanagar. Further interrogation revealed the suspect was a habitual offender involved in about 30 to 32 theft cases, including house break-ins, attempted robbery, and vehicle thefts. He said the stolen valuables were pledged at various jewellery stores, while some were given to acquaintances and relatives. Police later recovered the valuables.

From the arrest, police detected 13 theft cases in the Madanayakanahalli police station and two in the Nelamangala Town police station.

Umrah pilgrimage during Ramzan cancelled for B'lureans

Most flights to West Asia grounded due to war in Iran

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The growing tensions in West Asia have brought the Islamic pilgrimage, Umrah, to a standstill for Bengalureans.

Saudi Arabia remains among the most-impacted sectors with most flights to West Asia cancelled at the Kempegowda International Airport. There are no flights to Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam also.

On Tuesday, two drones hit the US Embassy in the capital city of Riyadh, further tightening the airspace restrictions.

Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah, the holiest city for Muslims, which can be undertaken at any time of the year, but is favoured by many during the holy month of Ramzan.

On Tuesday afternoon, a group of about 40 pilgrims, comprising both Bengaluru and Mysuru residents, arrived at a sparsely populated Terminal 2 of the Kempegowda International Airport, determined to start their journey to Makkah. The group, originally meant to depart on March 1, had to postpone their flight to March 4, due to airspace restrictions.

"We've managed to find an early morning flight to Jeddah from Mangaluru on March 4. So we'll be taking a flight to Mangaluru later today. We're all looking forward to celebrating Eid there," said Rahmatuallah, 53, only to find out an hour later that the flight from Mangaluru to Jeddah had also been cancelled.

"It's supposed to be extremely rewarding to fulfil this pilgrimage during the month of Ramzan, which is why we are all so keen on it. Hopefully, the situation gets better, and we're able to travel to Makkah before Ramzan ends," he added. Each pilgrim in the group had paid Rs 1.5 lakh for a 22-day trip to the cities of Makkah and Madinah.

Saudi Arabia remains among the most-impacted sectors with most flights to West Asia cancelled at the KIA.

While the pilgrimage often costs approximately Rs one lakh per person, travel agents tend to hike up the prices during Ramzan, bringing the price up to around Rs 1.5 to 1.7 lakh for a 15-20 day trip.

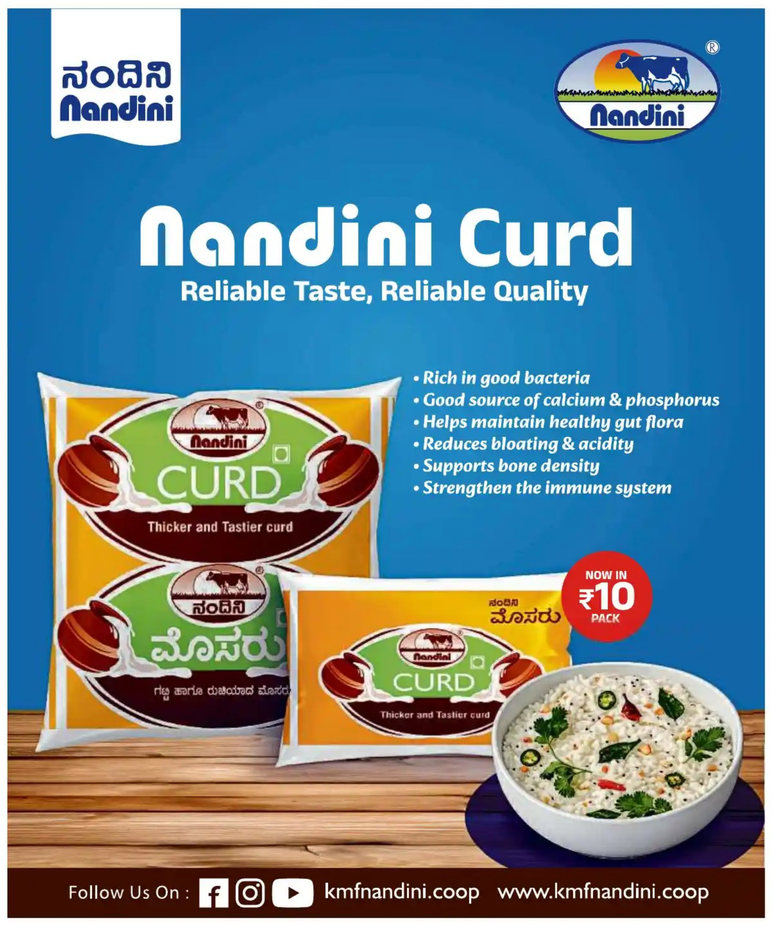
While some travel agents are hopeful that the airspace restrictions will be eased by the weekend, others have postponed all bookings by at least three months.

"This month, I had 180 Umrah bookings, and I have temporarily cancelled all of them. Given the current situation, we don't want to take any risks. Even though some customers are adamant about going this month, we are strictly against it. Instead, we plan to resume travel only after Bakrid in June. By then, the situation would've cooled down," said Hafiz Mohammed Samiullah, a travel agent.

Stranded pilgrims

Samiullah also shared that he currently had 280 pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, unable to return to Bengaluru. "They were all set to return between March 1 and 7, but their flights have been cancelled. Thankfully, our partners in Saudi Arabia are providing them with hotel rooms and food. The businesses there have not jacked up the prices," he added.

Syed Tabrez, another local travel agent, is also trying to arrange return flights for 250 pilgrims currently stranded in Jeddah. "There are people of all ages in that group, from toddlers to senior citizens. We have arranged accommodation for them, but news of the war is making people anxious," he said.



II PU subject sees single-student regn for exam

BENGALURU, DHNS

In the ongoing II PU examinations, a few subjects, particularly those in vocational courses, witnessed very low registration with one having just single student.

Healthcare (National Skill Qualifications Framework), one of the vocational course subjects this year, has only one student. But the Department of School Education and Literacy has to conduct the exams even if it is single registration, by setting and printing a question paper only for that student!

Meanwhile, Language subjects like Telugu and Malayalam have less than 100 registrations. For Malayalam, the number of students registered are 12 and for Telugu the total number of students registered this year are 91. There are also a few core subjects in this list. For example, Geology has only 77 students appearing for the final exams this year.

Though this low demand for some subjects raises the question why the department is not discontinuing such subjects, the officials clarified that they cannot deny exams even if it is a single student. Speaking about it, Bharath S, Director of Department of Pre University Education, said: "We have to be sensitive to the requirements of students. Even if we have a single registration, the department has to make all the necessary arrangements to conduct the exams, including setting a question paper and other security arrangements."

This year, the total number of students registered for II PU (examination-1) are 7,10,316. Of this, 2,27,568 are from Kannada medium and 4,82,748 from English Medium. Looking at the stream-wise data, the number of students in Science Stream registered from Kannada medium is 420, wherein 3,08,880 students have registered for science subjects from English medium.

Interestingly, the English language witnessed the highest registrations at 6,66,529 followed by Kannada with 5,08,326, Economics-3,53,413, Chemistry-3,02,313, Mathematics-3,01,195 and Biology-2,26,480.

Subjects with least registrations

Subjects	Students
Healthcare	01
Apparels Home Furniture	72
Electronics & Hardware	73
Geology	77
Malayalam	12
Telugu	91
Hindustani Music	164
Retail	183
Tamil	280
Logic	461
Home Science	626
Arabic	762
Beauty & Wellness	1,064
Automobile	1,537
Psychology	1,591

42 flights to West Asia cancelled at KIA on Tuesday

Helpdesk set up at airport to assist passengers

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

A total of 42 flights were cancelled at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Tuesday, due to airspace restrictions in West Asia.

With 21 arrivals and departures each cancelled, flights to Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai and Doha were majorly impacted. There were no flights scheduled until midnight to the impacted sectors, shared an airport representative.

Despite the prevalent airspace restrictions, hopeful passengers trickled into the airport in an attempt to return to the Gulf for personal or private reasons.

A family of five drove all the way from Salem to drop off a single family member. "I was originally supposed to leave for Dubai on Sunday. I had booked my flight from Coimbatore, but that got cancelled. I finally found an Emirates flight from Bengaluru and booked the tickets, but my family was still unsure, so they all came to drop me off in case the flight got cancelled again," said Shaziya, who was heading back home to her husband after spending a month in India. Her flight was eventually cancelled.

Terminal 2 at Kempegowda International Airport wears a deserted look on Tuesday evening. DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

Another family of four, also meant to take the same flight to Dubai, dejectedly returned home after receiving the cancellation message. Passengers were miffed about not receiving cancellation messages in advance.

To assist passengers and provide on-ground support, KIA has set up a helpdesk at the kerbside of Terminal 2. Bangalore International Airport Limited, the airport operator, has set up chairs, drinking water, charging stations, sanitary napkins, wheelchairs, and medical assistance at the help desk.

On Monday night and Tuesday early morning, Etihad and Emirates airlines began limited operations to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, respectively, with restrictions.

However, a flight to Dubai scheduled for 4.30 am, carrying only UAE nationals and resident permit holders, returned due to airspace closure, an airport representative informed. It was later postponed to depart at 6.40 pm, and again postponed to 7.35 pm. The airport operator refused to provide further details about the flight's operations.

CCB arrests Kerala duo, recovers narcotics worth Rs 11.50 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police stopped drug smuggling efforts and recovered narcotic substances worth Rs 12 crore in a sustained operation.

In the first case, the Narcotics Control Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police arrested two interstate drug peddlers, Ashwin and Mubeena, originally from Kerala, and recovered drugs worth Rs 11.50 crore from them.

The seizures included 8,335 LSD strips, 5 kg hydro ganja, and 534 grams charas. The two were arrested after a raid at their rented accommodation in Bagalur.

"Both suspects had been residing in Bengaluru for the past year and were involved in an organised illegal drug distribution network," police said. "They were receiving narcotic substances from a Kerala-based person residing in Thailand and distributing them to customers as per his instructions, thereby, earning illegal profits." "A case has been registered against them under the NDPS Act at the Bagalur police station."

Whitefield case

In a separate case, Whitefield police arrested a suspect and recovered 27.2 kg ganja and 3.2 kg hashish oil worth an estimated Rs 55 lakh from him. The intention was to earn quick money by selling these narcotic substances to the public, including IT/BT employees, police said. The suspect was transporting the drugs for distribution and sale.

KG Nagar case

In another operation, based on credible information, 1.5 kg hydro ganja was seized by police.

"The contraband had been smuggled via international parcel services and concealed inside chocolate and biscuit boxes to avoid suspicion. The estimated value is Rs 1.5 crore.

"A case has been registered at the KG Nagar police station under the NDPS Act, and efforts are ongoing to trace the accused," police said.

Illegal stay

Two foreign women who were allegedly overstaying their visas were arrested within the limits of Mico Layout police station and handed over to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

Later, they were sent to the Foreigners Detention Centre as per legal procedures.

HC directs e-Governance to formulate comprehensive policy on govt websites

BENGALURU, DHNS

JUSTICE SURAJ GOVINDARAJ

"Public authorities must recognise that any representation made on an official website carries weight and authority. Even if such material does not have statutory force, it influences public conduct. Inconsistent or outdated information can undermine public confidence and give rise to allegations of arbitrariness or unfairness.

The Karnataka High Court has directed the Principal Secretary, Department of e-Governance, to formulate a comprehensive policy governing the publication, verification, and maintenance of content on official websites of all government departments, boards, corporations, and statutory authorities.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed this general direction while disposing of a petition filed by a residential school challenging the pro-rata charges issued by the BWSSB.

In the case at hand, it was brought to the notice of the court that the customer charter uploaded on the BWSSB website approximately in the year 2005 and that it does not derive authority from the statute, nor has it been framed in exercise of delegated legislative power.

"In today's context, the website of a public authority is not merely an informational platform. For most citizens, it is the first and often the only source of information. An ordinary person does not ordinarily read the parent Act or the detailed Regulations framed under it. Instead, he or she relies on what is published on the official website. Such reliance is natural and reasonable," the court said.

The court said the distinction between a statutory regulation and an administrative document may be clear to lawyers, but it is not apparent to a layperson.

"Therefore, if the website contains information that does not strictly align with the statutory regulations, it can create genuine confusion. Such confusion can have serious consequences. Citizens may make financial commitments, plan construction, or arrange their affairs based on the information published online. If that information later turns out to be inconsistent with the governing regulations, it may result in financial loss, grievance, and unnecessary litigation. This not only burdens the citizen but also leads to avoidable disputes before the court," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

While issuing directions to the Department of e-Governance, the court said the policy shall provide for a system of prior legal vetting before uploading any document that relates to statutory rights or obligations, prescribes fees, charges, classifications, or interprets or explains any provision of an Act, Rule, or Regulation, penalties, or entitlements. The policy shall include a structured mechanism enabling citizens to report discrepancies between website content and statutory provisions, with mandatory timelines for response.

In the petition filed by the Jain International Residential School, the court said being a large residential school with extensive campus infrastructure, it is an institution that operates commercially in the sense that it charges fees and provides services. "It falls within the "non-residential" category as defined by the Regulations. The fact that it is an educational institution does not alter this classification under the applicable statutory framework," the court said.

However, liberty is granted to the petitioner to approach the statutory appellate authority under Section 120 of the BWSSB Act for any grievance relating to the computation or quantum of pro-rata charges within 60 days, the court said.

Yadgir man booked for derogatory post on Modi, Netanyahu

YADGIR, DHNS: The Yadgir Town police have registered an FIR against Abdulnabi Zakir, a resident of the town, for an objectionable social media post on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanhayu.

Constable Ravi Rathod lodged a complaint after he noticed the status of Zakir depicting PM Modi and his Israeli counterpart in a derogatory manner.

The police booked Zakir on charges of causing insult with an intent to provoke breach of peace and harmony among others.

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TOP LOAD upto 47% OFF EMI starts @ ₹1,499*
SIDE BY SIDE upto 48% OFF | EMI starts @ ₹3,333*
FROST FREE upto 43% OFF EMI starts @ ₹1,999*
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ANDROID PHONES
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upto 38% OFF | EMI starts @ ₹1,500*
WIDE RANGE OF AIR COOLERS
upto 46% OFF | EMI starts @ ₹541*
WIDE RANGE OF PURIFIERS
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What's on B'luru's Iftar menu?

Metrolife takes a look at what home chefs are dishing out this Ramzan

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

This Ramzan, home chefs are serving up mini portions, less-known fare from Muslim communities, and modern and healthy alternatives. They say the demand is coming steadily from both Muslim families breaking their fast, and non-Muslims eager to sample festive fare. There is also a greater demand for customised Iftar boxes.

Micro-mini burgers

Big Daddys Kitchen in HBR Layout serves Bhatkali cuisine (of the Nawayath Muslim community of coastal Karnataka), along with Arabic and continental fare. The menu includes three-inch shawarmas, two-inch samosas and quiches under two inches, along with mini tandoori subs, pizza pockets, shami fingers, and their top-selling mini peri peri chicken burgers.

"Bite-sized food looks inviting. You can also taste more without feeling too full too quickly, and it works well for sharing, especially in Iftar boxes. We even sell micro-mini burgers," says owner-chef Mohamed Saaqib Musba. He is seeing higher demand for Iftar boxes on weekdays, mostly from working professionals who are too busy to cook. Shawarmas and burgers are staples in these Iftar boxes, he adds.

Among the Bhatkali dishes in demand are appa gudiyo (chicken crepes with grated coconut) and shaiyya biryani (a mildly spiced vermicelli biryani).

Contact 86180 25703

Bite-sized snacks, like this burger, are the focus of Mohamed Saaqib Musba's (inset) menu.

Five times the demand

Since Ramzan began, Sarah Raiyan has been sending out at least 50 boxes of 10 dahi bhalles (lentil fritters in yogurt) daily, compared to 8 to 10 boxes she sells during the rest of the year. Among her top Iftar sellers are dahi bhalles, chicken sandwiches, and tender coconut pudding (made without gelatin). Trifle pudding, a new addition, is also fast moving. She has also added a no-maida date-walnut cake following a customer's request for healthy alternatives.

Her Iftar spread largely steers away from typical festive fare. This wasn't intentional, but driven by the need to prepare less time-consuming dishes. "Luckily, it clicked with customers. Perhaps they wanted variety," says the owner-chef of Oven Tales, Hennur.

Contact 98407 94972

Shazia Wasim's (inset) menu features dishes from multiple cuisines.

Kids want novelty

Tasmiya Firdose's Iftar menu largely consists of old-school delights like samosas, cutlets and kebabs. Her chicken cutlet, based on her mother's recipe, is the top-seller, followed by ande ki mithai and trifle pudding. But the demand for novelty has reached her kitchen as well. She is now making chicken popsicles, chicken box patties (square-shaped samosas), cheese-filled samosas, and kids' favourite, chicken cheese balls. "Chicken box patties have been a hit with both affluent families and college students ordering on a budget," says the owner-chef behind V Cook, Koramangala.

Contact 95383 51167

Make it healthy

Huma Ali has been running Colonnade Caterers from her home in Benson Town for over 30 years. In recent years, she has seen a growing demand for healthier Iftar snacks. So today, she offers an air-fried version of the half moon pie. To reduce oil, she semi-fries makke di roti and finishes it in the oven. For banoffee, she balances condensed milk with fat-free, sugar-free cream. She prepares lasagnas with homemade sheets to avoid preservatives. Coffee rolls are made with sugar-free biscuits, or without adding extra sugar when regular biscuits are used. "The aim is to make dishes as healthy as possible without compromising on taste," she says.

Contact 98440 74798

Balancing act

Shazia Wasim's Iftar menu balances the traditional flavours of the Cutchi Memon community she belongs to with fast food for her diversifying clientele. As a result, gravy dishes such as badam chicken, raan musallam and tilli ka salan, snacks like kadi chops, and dry preparations such as laal masale ka phaal sit alongside zinger burger, peri peri chicken samosa and chicken tikka pizza. The same balance extends to the dessert section. Alongside Ramzan favourites she grew up with, such as lychee souffle and zafrani phirni, she has included banoffee pie.

According to the owner-chef of Blissful Bites, Fraser Town, finger foods such as cutlets and croquettes are the fastest-selling items, especially for corporate orders and church gatherings, while large-portion dishes like gud ka chawal (jaggery rice) are popular among Muslim families.

Contact 98451 28608

IFTAR WALKS

Bengaluru by Foot will host two Iftar walks on March 8 and March 15 — at 5 pm in Fraser Town and 7.15 pm in Shivajinagar. According to organiser Mansoor Ali, the Fraser Town walk will cover about six eateries and their festive staples, including the brain puff at Albert Bakery. "A home chef will also prepare mutton kofta, mutton shami kebab, khichda and sheer khurma for participants," he adds. The Shivajinagar walk will feature stops at S R Bakery, Kausar Bakery and Taj Hotel, known for samosas, khova naan, halwa puri and seekh kebab. It is a ticketed walk, inclusive of food costs. To register, contact 70192 72365.

Those who want to explore the Ramzan food scene independently can visit the stalls lining Shivajinagar, Tilaknagar, and Koramangala. They open around 6.30 pm.

POPCORN

iCommand

The police have arrested two frequent flyers from Delhi. They would come down to Bengaluru and rob people of their iPhones. When police raided their hotel room, they found phones worth Rs 10 lakh. The muggers would visit parties, rock shows and snobbish events favoured by iPhone users, and diligently disabuse them their snobbery. Goes without saying that the spoils were transferred to the national capital. And here you were, thinking only our national politicians do that sort of thing.

Exhibition of British era botanical surveys

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

This image of Garcinia mangostana or mangosteen is found in the 1855 'Custis's Botanical Magazine'.

An exhibition, opening on March 7 at the Museum of Art and Photography, will offer insight into the botanical surveys conducted in the Indian subcontinent during the colonial rule. Titled 'Paper gardens: Art, botany, and empire', it will feature over 120 works, spanning paintings, textiles, prints and illustrated volumes featuring different plant species of India.

"India was a hotbed of botanical activity during the 17th to 20th centuries, yet these histories are not at the forefront of public memory," begins Shrey Maurya, curator of the exhibition. The pieces in the exhibition have been carefully picked from the MAP archives acquired over the past two years.

"About 90% of the works are purely scientific records and tell us how plants were studied and how the information was circulated," she explains, adding that the British expeditions collected and classified this information with the intent of propagation for economic, medical and political needs. Among the pieces on display are hand-coloured lithographs, copperplate engravings and rare photographs. A first edition print of 'Thesaurus Zeylanicus', which was published in the early 18th century, is part of the showcase. It is written by Johannes Burman and features copperplate engravings of plants, with details of their medicinal and economical importance.

'Hortus Malabaricus', a treatise by Hendrik van Rheede and Itty Achudan, documents 700 plant species from the Malabar coast and details their medicinal value. Achudan was a physician from the traditional Ezhava physicians of Kerala, while Rheede was the governor of Dutch Malabar. "Some of the works had to go through a bit of restoration. And we have been very careful about how they are displayed," says Shrey.

The exhibition is on until July 5 at Museum of Art and Photography, Kasturba Road. For details, call 6933 4100.

EVENTS

Harmonium recital
Beyond Accompaniment: Unveiling the Solo Voice of the Harmonium by harmonium artiste Ravindra Katoti will be held on March 5, 7 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Writing workshop
House of Belonging is hosting a writing workshop, where participants will engage in various forms of writing, including journals and short stories. On March 4, 6.30 pm, at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. For details, visit attagalatta.com

Yakshagana show
A Yakshagana performance will be staged by Bengaluru-based troupe Yakshagana Tapassangha on March 8, 3 pm to 9 pm at Sri Jayarama Seva Mandali, Jayanagar. Entry free. For details, call 98440 12298.

'India has about 4,000 ornamental fish species'

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
TEAM METROLIFE

City-based aquascaper Mayur Dev is making continuous attempts to bring indigenous products into the ornamental fish market.

In 2021, he launched a fish food brand called Life Aayu to counter fish feed imported from China, which often contains cheap ingredients and substances like maida, which are harmful.

"Based on what the fish eat in their natural habitat, we came up with the feed. The products were tested multiple times before putting them on the market," he tells *Metrolife*. The brand was named Aayu after the Kannada word ayushya, which translates to longevity.

Mayur Dev has been working as an aquascaper for 30 years.

Fish research

Dev says, in India, the focus is on fish used for consumption rather than on ornamental fish. "About 4,000 species of ornamental fish are documented in our country but not many people know about them. However, the western world is more aware of it," he adds.

He speaks fondly of the zebra danio, commonly known as zebrafish. About 70% of their genetic make-up is similar to that of humans. "Tests are being conducted on the species to solve human problems. They are also very beautiful," he shares. The maharaja barb is another less-known species, and is found in the Sahyadri mountains of Karnataka.

Designing ecosystems

Influenced by Takashi Amano, a Japanese aquarist, Dev began his aquascaping journey when he was seven.

Talking about creating suitable ecosystems for fish, Dev explains that each aquarium ecosystem is designed based on the species of the fish. Appropriate aquatic plants that are suitable for the fish are cultivated within the aquarium. Diffusers and fertilisers are added to ensure both the fish and the plants thrive, he shares.

Fish for vastu

Dev observes that one of the factors that drive ornamental fish sales is vastu. Vastu consultants believe that keeping fish at home can solve a lot of problems. "Many people buy fish for vastu but they do not know how to take care of them. They go back to the stores with problems but even they are not aware of the solutions. People treat them as showpieces instead of living beings," he laments.

Early memories

When Dev was seven, he picked fish from a local market to rear them in a nearby pond. That was how his interest in the field began. He began his career as an aquascaper 30 years ago.

"My grandfather encouraged me to start taking care of the fish and my interest grew as I continued to bring more of them to the pond. He also took me to the University of Agricultural Sciences," he shares. As he continued rearing them in the pond, he immersed himself in understanding their growth and behaviour, including how they breed.

Cool tips: How to make your home summer ready

Simple furnishing swaps, ventilation tweaks and water-based tricks to help cut indoor heat

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

With Bengaluru's temperatures rising up to 33°C this week, *Metrolife* spoke to interior designers and architects about affordable and simple ways to keep homes cool.

Furnishing details

Managing direct sunlight is key, especially in west- and south-west facing homes. Meena Satish, an interior designer working with an Infantry Road-based firm, recommends layered curtains with a lighter outer layer (in white, off-white, beige, cream or pastels), and a slightly darker inner layer (in browns or tans). "Pair sheer curtains with a thicker inner layer. The thicker layer absorbs the heat and will not let it get into the room," she says.

Blackout or reflective blinds are effective, says Snehal Patil, founder of an interior design firm in Brookefield. "Sun films applied to window glass will cut down the sunrays entering," she adds. The best fabric choices are cotton or linen, as these "are breathable materials and absorb less heat". She advises avoiding velvet and synthetics as "these trap heat."

Snehal also recommends khus root (dried roots of the Vetiver grass) curtains. "When the breeze passes through these curtains, even if it is warm, it becomes cooler. You could also sprinkle water on these for an extra cooling effect," she says.

Bamboo blinds are another option, says Gowri Rao, associate director at an architectural firm in Koramangala.

Experts recommend pairing light, sheer curtains with a darker, thicker inner layer to prevent heat from entering the room. PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

"These, along with green plants and creepers around the windows, will keep the indoors cool," she notes.

Use water

Mopping floors with cool water in the afternoon helps prevent surfaces from warming up, says Meena. "The room temperature will drop by at least one or two degrees. For a stronger cooling effect, add ice cubes to the water," she adds.

Snehal suggests placing bowls of ice or cool water near windows and doors. "As the ice melts, evaporation will cool the circulating air," she explains.

In independent houses or top-floor flats, pouring a bucket of water over the terrace in the evening will cool rooms below, say experts.

Cross ventilation, add plants

While structural changes may not be possible, airflow can still be improved. Meena advises, "If you have two windows, keep both open to facilitate cross ventilation." Even opening multiple shutters or keeping internal doors ajar can help hot air escape, she adds.

Gowri recommends shutting windows between 11 am and 4 pm and ventilating the house during the early morning or late evening. For homes with limited cross ventilation, she suggests improving air movement. "Strategically placed tower fans can move air in patterns. Place the fans near windows or openings," she advises, adding that clearing furniture near windows can further improve airflow.

Indoor plants are another affordable way to keep indoors cool. Meena recommends adding snake plants, money plants and indoor palms to one's home, as "they absorb heat and give out more oxygen."

Aloe vera and peace lily are other options, Snehal suggests. The plants should be grown in mud pots instead of plastic pots, she adds.

CITY MIX

Five concerts at cultural fest

The Ekatvam Holi Music Festival will be held from March 6 to 8 at Bangalore Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi, from 5 pm each day. The opening day will feature a Hindustani vocal duet by Keerthan Holla and Shrihari Kulkarni, followed by a Hindustani instrumental trio. On the second day, a 25-member instrumental ensemble, directed by Anoor Anantha Krishna Sharma, will take the stage.

The concluding day will feature two Karnatik vocal duets. An initiative of Entrust Foundation, the festival will also bestow awards on violinist Annavarapu Ramaswamy, and vocalist Parameshwar Hegde.

Entry free. Visit @ekatvam_music on Instagram.

Screening: Film on sculptor's career

Bangalore Film Forum will screen 'Showing Up', an American comedy-drama film directed by Kelly Reichardt, on March 7, 6 pm, at Untitled Arts Foundation, J P Nagar. The film follows a sculptor as she navigates relationships with family, friends and colleagues while preparing for a career-defining exhibition.

Details on fillum.in

Hello kitty! City's cats now geo-tagged

The geotags are titled as tourist attractions, where single or multiple cats from the area can be spotted

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Several unusual Google Maps geotags featuring local cats have gone viral across Bengaluru. Among the most popular are 'Nigesh the cat', a five-star-rated orange cat in Malleswaram; 'Battarahalli Bar Nigesh Cat', which includes a group of black, orange and calico cats at a bar in Battarahalli; 'Nigesh the Caaat', a grey cat in Kaggalipura; and 'The Friendly Orange Cat and His Kitten' in Koramangala.

The cat-tagging phenomenon is part of a wider global trend in which users pin obscure or humorous locations on maps. In Bengaluru, the trend appears to have picked up around early 2025, when commuters repeatedly spotted a female cat sleeping inside Entrance C of Indiranagar metro station. Social media posts about the unusually relaxed feline soon went viral, with people visiting the station specifically to see her. Over the past week, similar cat geotags have cropped up across the city. Most of these locations are marked 'open 24 hours', though some follow the timings of their host venues. These listings are populated with reviews, photos, precise coordinates and even AI-generated summaries of the cats' personalities.

Visitors from across the city reportedly drop by to pet or feed the animals. Some cats are informally cared for by nearby shops and residents, while others remain strays. Their food supply now partly depends on their accidental 'tourist attraction' status. A staffer who works at a Khan Saheb outlet, located next to the geotagged location 'friendly calico cat' in Basavanagar, says, "There are many cats in the area, we do not care for them, but people that pass by often feed the cats."

The cat geotagged 'Church Street Nigesh' is found on the steps of a coffee shop.

An employee of The Bookworm bookstore on Church Street explains that the store used to look after cats for years, but the cats have not been coming for the past couple of months. The cat, which is geotagged 'Church Street Nigesh', sits on the stairs of a coffee shop right next to the bookstore. It has a bowl of food that is filled by strangers and the people who work in different businesses located in the building.

Simran Punjabi, a sales associate at a tattoo and piercing shop, has visited a couple of these spots, from Indiranagar to Church Street, and says that she accidentally came across these cats and only later found them online. "I will keep going and try to visit all the cat locations one by one," she says.

To find these spots, users can simply search 'cats tourist attractions Bengaluru' or 'Nigesh the cat' on Google Maps.

MEME EXPLAINED

The term 'Nigesh' is youth slang derived from a viral clip of Malayalam actor Suresh Gopi addressing a man named Nikesh. His accent made it sound like 'Nigesh'. Online, the word is now used humorously to label amusing people, animals or objects.

WHAT TO FEED THE CATS

Veterinarian Dr Aswin K advises visitors to avoid giving milk, as many cats are lactose intolerant. Raw meat, eggs and heavily spiced food should also be avoided. If a cat lives in an area where it can hunt, small portions of cooked meat are safest; dry cat food is preferable in areas where hunting is limited.

Christ University's Kannada Sangha celebrates golden jubilee valedictory

Honours writers, critics, scholars to mark the occasion

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Christ University's Kannada Sangha marked its golden jubilee valedictory on Tuesday by honouring eminent writers, critics, and scholars who have shaped the Sangha's journey since its inception in 1971.

Over five decades, the Sangha has published 246 books and mentored more than 700 young writers through inter-collegiate initiatives. Notably, more than 30 of its publications have received recognition from state and national literary bodies.

Ramalinga Reddy

Addressing the gathering, Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport and Muzrai, praised the Sangha for its sustained, year-round engagement rather than symbolic celebrations.

"Its consistent publishing programme represents a significant cultural contribution at a time when institutional support for Kannada discourse is declining," he said, emphasising the need for all residents of Karnataka to learn the language.

Purushottama Bilimale, Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority, observed that while many similar forums have become inactive over time, the Christ University Kannada Sangha has maintained both public relevance and continuity.

Noted critic HS Raghavendra Rao described the Sangha as a literary movement that has taken Kannada beyond the classroom. He highlighted its inclusive nature, bringing together native and non-native speakers alike, and recalled the intellectual influence of icons such as Masti Venkatesha Iyengar and DR Bendre.

Presiding over the ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Fr Joseph CC highlighted the institution's shift towards modern accessibility.

Recent initiatives include contributing over 5,000 articles to Kannada Wikipedia, converting physical publications into e-books, and expanding digital platforms to widen public access.

Nimhans launches 'ManoSandesha', a mental health series in Kannada

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) on Tuesday launched the 'ManoSandesha' series in Kannada.

ManoSandesha was created to make credible, evidence-based mental health guidance from authoritative voices accessible to the public.

The programme features Nimhans experts delivering practical, scientifically grounded information on topics, including eating disorders, depression, anxiety, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) and autism.

The ManoSandesha series was launched in English on August 15, 2025, during the 79th Independence Day celebrations by Nimhans Director Dr Pratima Murthy.

So far, the series has featured 37 videos in English and Hindi on the Nimhans YouTube channel (@NIMHANS./) for public viewing.

'Janapada Jathre' recreates rural festive spirit on campus

BENGALURU, DHNS

The participants of the 'Janapada Jathre'.

Arunodaya English High School organised a 'Janapada Jathre' on its campus, transforming the premises into a vibrant village fair.

The celebration recreated the atmosphere of a traditional rural festival, with the campus decorated to resemble a lively village setting. Small stalls, traditional art displays, handicrafts, and models depicting rural life added authenticity to the event.

"The sights and sounds of the fair gave everyone the feeling of being part of an actual village festival. Students and teachers actively participated in organising the event," the school administration said.

The programme featured a range of cultural performances highlighting the richness of folk heritage. Folk dances, traditional music performances, and skits portraying village life were among the key attractions. Colourful costumes, rhythmic beats, and enthusiastic performances captivated the audience and added charm to the celebration.

The 'Janapada Jathre' not only entertained participants, but also educated students about rural traditions and cultural values. It encouraged teamwork, creativity, and a deeper appreciation of cultural heritage.

Eatery dispute killing: 2 arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: A man was allegedly murdered for stepping on a man's foot at a hotel in Basaveshwara Nagar on Monday morning.

Police identified the suspects as Manjunath and Bhagyaraj alias Papu.

Police said that on March 2 at 11.45 am, Shashikumar, in his early 30s, was at Raghavendara Veg Dosa Corner on Thimmaiah Road. The suspects, who were also present, attacked him with a sharp weapon, claiming he had stepped on the foot of one of them.

Shashikumar succumbed to his injuries. Following a complaint, police registered a murder case.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Media Festival: Department of Information and Public Relations: Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, Dinesh Gundu Rao, KV Prabhakar, Dinesh Amin Mattu, B Ramesh, G Jagadish, Hemant M Nimbalkar; Dr Manmohan Singh Bangalore City University, Central College Campus; from 10 am.

Symposium: 'MNREGA Vs G RAM G' Changes in Employment Guarantee Scheme– Pros and Cons; Swarna Bhat, BR Patil, Narendrapani; Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 10.30 am onwards.

Programmes: 'Prof KB Siddhaiah' one-day national symposium; KB Siddhaiah's 'Togala Mantapa' book release; HS Shivaprakash; book release: L Hanumanthaiah, SM Jayakar; Dr Babu Jagajeevanram Study and Research Centre; Kannada Studies Centre, Bangalore University, Jnanabharati campus; 10.30 am.

Book release: SN Prashanth Chandra's 'Compendium on Commercial Courts Act, 2015– Part–2'; Vibhu Khabru, Anu Sivaraman, Basavaprabhu S Patil, Harish Narasappa, DM Hegde, Vivek Subbareddy; Organised by Bangalore Bar Association; High Court Unit, Hall No 1; 1.45 pm.

Book release: Sudhakar Hosalli's 'Nanoo Kafira'; Prakash Belawadi, Book review: GB Harish, N Ravikumar, Narayana Shevire; Swarashtra Prakashan; Suchitra Film Society, Banashankari; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Women's Day celebration: Organised by Kadu Malleswaram Friends Club; Kadu Malleswaram Open Air Theatre; Malleswaram; 6.30 pm.

Play: 'Nakshatra Yatrikaru', written by Sandhya S, music by Sripati Manjanabailu, direction by Savita Bairappa; Aayog; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7.15 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly cear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	32.7°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	38%
Sunset (Mar 4)	6:29 pm
Sunrise (Mar 5)	6:35 am
Moonrise	6:28 pm
Moonset	5:19 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No. **157561** issued by **ABB POWER PRODUCTS AND SYSTEMS INDIA LTD** (Now known as **HITACHI ENERGY INDIA LIMITED)** for **85** shares bearing Distinctive Nos. from **42283035** to **42283119** standing in the name of Ravinder Singh and Registered under Folio No: **APS0157561,** has been lost/misplaced and the advertiser has applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate in lieu thereof. Any persons who have claims on the said shares should lodge such claims with the company's Registrar and Transfer Agent Karvy Computershare Private Ltd., Karvy Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31-32 Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032 within **15 days** from the date of notice failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate in respect of the said shares.

Sd/- Name of the Shareholder
Ravinder Singh
12/10, Cambridge Road,
Ulsoor, Bangalore-560008
Place: Bangalore Date: 04-03-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No. **1108090** issued by **ABB INDIA LIMITED** for **425** shares bearing Distinctive Nos. from **109581781** to **109582205** standing in the name of Ravinder Singh and Registered under Folio No: **R0010953,** has been lost/misplaced and the advertiser has applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate in lieu thereof.

Any persons who have claims on the said shares should lodge such claims with the company's Registrar and Transfer Agent Karvy Computershare Private Ltd., Karvy Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31-32 Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad-500 032 within **15 days** from the date of notice failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate in respect of the said shares.

Sd/- Name of the Shareholder
Ravinder Singh
12/10, Cambridge Road,
Ulsoor, Bangalore-560008
Place: Bangalore Date: 04-03-2026

ADVERTISEMENT

1. Applications are invited from war widows/ widows of defence personnel killed while on duty, disabled soldiers/ ex servicemen and spouses/ widows of ex- servicemen for running the following SI Side shops at **Air Force Station, Jalahalli (East and West) for period of 01 year initially.**
2. Applications are invited from civilians also. However, category mentioned in Para 1 above will be given priority over Para 2 category.
3. Applications are invited for the following category:

SI. No.	Name of the Shop	Location	Sl. No.	Name of the Shop	Location
EAST AREA					
01	Dry Cleaning shop	ETI	06	Provision shop	Akshaya complex
02	Fruit shop		07	Barber shop	
03	Supper bar		08	Meat shop	
04	Fruit shop	E&ITI	09	Steel box shop	
05	Supper bar	16 TS	10	Wet canteen	Krishna Auditorium
WEST AREA					
01	Car Garage	Tripti complex	05	Cable TV	Tripti complex
02	Tailor shop		06	Waste Food collection	All over station
03	Steel box shop		07	Newspaper collection	West domestic area
04	Mochi shop				

4. Further, considering the prime locality and scope for progression, interested parties are promoted to set up franchise like shops including safal vegetable shop, Hallimane vegetable shop, Karnataka state fisheries co-operative shop, Nandu's, 99 store, organics etc.
5. The space earmarked for the shops will be run as SI venture. Salient QRs for running the shops is as follows:
   (a) The shops should be brought up to desired standards on the expenses of vendor.
   (b) Sanitation and hygiene towards operating the shops is to be met.
   (c) Monthly rebate, rent and allied charges as applicable will be paid by the vendor to SI Fund and to BSO through MRO as per procedure in vogue.
6. Application forms can be procured on payment of Rs.500/- (non refundable) from 05 Mar 2026 to 18 Mar 2026, between 0900hrs to 1300hrs on all working days (except Saturdays & Sundays). Earnest money @ Rs.5,000/- per application must be deposited by applicant from 07 Mar 2026 to 20 Mar 2026 between 0900hrs to 1300hrs on all working days (except Saturdays & Sundays). Same can be collected from Service Institute office, Air force Station Jalahalli (East) Bangalore.
7. Contracts will be awarded through Auction Process. Minimum bench marking rebates will be set by AFS Jalahalli. Box will be placed at main gate, Air Force Station, Jalahalli (East), Bangalore-13 from **07 Mar 2026 to 23 Mar 2026** (1000hrs). Application forms should be in sealed envelopes separate for each shop with the name of shop written on it. If applied for more than one shop, application form for each shop should have copies of required documents. A vendor will be allotted not more than two shops. All applicants are to drop the sealed application envelopes in the said box which will be sealed at 1000hrs on **23 Mar 2026,** and applications will be opened at 1100hrs on **23 Mar 2026,** by BOO in the presence of applicants. In case selected applicants do not take over the allotment shop within the stipulated time, the earnest money will be forfeited and contract will not be awarded.
8. Interested persons are to attach a photo copy of the below mentioned documents along with the application form and produce the original ID card and original documents at the time of opening of applications for verification. Non adherence will result in disqualification of the applicant. Applicants not present during the Auctioning will be disqualified. The shops will be allotted based on the highest bidders for the rebates to be paid, in the Auction process, in presence of the applicants.
   (i) Discharge book (ii) PPO No. (iii) Adhaar card
   (iv) Education certificate (v) Bank pass book (vi) TIN/ GST /PAN No.
   (vii) FSSAI certificate (Supper bar, Sweet shop and restaurants)
9. The final call on allotment and location of the shops would be undertaken by an independent BOO depending on the responses received, considering the proposals for setting up of stalls not included in the main list.

Service Institute office, Air Force Station Jalahalli (East)
Bangalore 13, Tele : 080-28399009/ 7235

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ENQUIRY NOTICE

Whereas you, Mrs. Ashwini M, Manager (Under Suspension), Employee no.13896, W/o Mr. Ravi N, resident of No 102, 17B Sahaydri Apartment, MV Layout, Sonnennahalli, Bangalore – 560056 have been placed under Suspension effective from 08.10.2025 pending contemplation of domestic enquiry for alleged misconduct as per Charge Sheet No.: HRD/O-58/OFLT-26003/2025 dated 10.12.2025 issued by the Disciplinary Authority of the Bank under Karur Vysya Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Regulations and Karur Vysya Bank Officer Employees (Discipline And Appeal) Regulations which was duly served upon you.

The Disciplinary Authority ordered departmental inquiry against you vide order dated 28.01.2026. The Inquiring Authority appointed by the Disciplinary Authority has given opportunity to you for attending the Preliminary Enquiry fixed at HRD, Central Office, Karur on 26.02.2026 to record your statement. However, you failed to appear for the enquiry. The Inquiring Authority has fixed the next date of enquiry on 18.03.2026 at The Karur Vysya Bank Limited, Divisional Office, No. 6, 2nd Floor, Vasavi Temple Road, Sajjan rao Circle, V.V. Puram, Bangalore – 560004 at 10.00 AM. Please note that your attendance is necessary to ensure free and fair enquiry in the matter. Failure to comply with this notice will result in conducting the enquiry ex-parte which please note.

(SURESH BABU A)
ASST. GENERAL MANAGER
DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA

NO1 JALAHALLI (WEST), BENGALURU-560 015

WALK- IN INTERVIEW FOR CONTRACTUAL TEACHERS: 2026-27

Walk-in interview will be conducted in PM SHRI Kendriya vidyalaya No1 Jalahalli west, Bengaluru-560 015 for Empanelment of Teachers on part- Time contractual basis for the Academic year 2026-27 for the posts and dates mentioned below:

DATE OF INTERVIEW	REGISTRATION FOR INTERVIEW	CATEGORY OF POSTS/ SUBJECTS
10.03.2026 (Tuesday)	8:00 AM TO 9:30 AM	**Post Graduate Teachers:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, English, Hindi, History, Economics, Geography, Psychology, Sociology and Yoga **Trained Graduate Teachers:** English, Hindi, Science, Mathematics, Social Science and Sanskrit. Computer instructors
11.03.2026 (Wednesday)	8:00 AM TO 9:30 AM	**Primary Teachers (PRT)** **Vocational Skill Coaches:** Balvatika Teachers (UKG) Games & Sports coach/ Nurse/Doctor/ Special Educator/ /Counsellor/ Brass Band Trainer/PRT Kannada/Art & Craft/Music/Dance/Yoga instructor, Vocational Instructor

For more details about Eligibility, Qualification & Remuneration please refer our Vidyalaya Website: **https://no1jalahalli.kvs.ac.in**
Phone: 080 28388422.

Bring one set of photo copies of all the certificates along with original certificates, photo and Id Proof.
Registration form may be downloaded from website.

PRINCIPAL

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आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK -6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/2049 **Date: -24/02/2026**

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of **(30)** companies in the state of **Karnataka** under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC2212379	U72900KA2016PTC094149	2PROEXPERT TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC1830680	U18109KA2021PTC146916	PDS BRANDS PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC2331274	U05002KA2016PTC086085	INTENSAQUATICA TOTAL PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC1097214	U74999KA2017PTC100619	PEEDIKAYIL CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC1860858	U74900KA2015PTC082578	FLECCTU TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC1822850	U74999KA2017PTC101269	PARIJATHA INFO SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AC1952673	U63030KA2017PTC107346	STELLARJET PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC1282451	U74999KA2019PTC123756	NOVUS IMMIGRATION SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC2117904	U85110KA1994PLC016790	DHANASHREE REALTORS (HUBLI) LIMITED
10	AC2218224	U73100KA2012PTC063228	PANOPTIC BIOSCIENCES PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC2245706	U70200KA2024PTC195238	PURPLEFUGE PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AC2006905	U45200KA2006PTC041021	ASTER REALITY DEVELOPMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AC2075271	U15122KA2024PTC183042	CHISEL VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AC2134907	U73100KA2021PTC156146	ARUKAS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC2148160	U74999KA2012PTC066575	VISADAY IMMIGRATION AND EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AC2122779	U74910KA2012PTC067301	ABHAY LABOUR AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AC2103060	U73100KA2023PTC177887	XARC MEDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC2113627	U74999KA2017FTC100803	BCL-BIZ SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC2168706	U85110KA1984PLC006533	MITTAL STRIPS LIMITED
20	AC2152735	U72900KA2022PTC158181	ARUKAS TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AC2183699	U72900KA2021PTC151921	PROGMOTO TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AC2227064	U74999KA2017PTC104420	WICE SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AC2215691	U70103KA2020PTC141067	INVESTREAL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AC2216769	U01409KA2021PTC154533	HOLISTIC & HEURISTIC PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AC2238736	U47912KA2023PTC180726	LOCAL24 RETAIL PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AC2225518	U74999KA2021PTC151872	FINKA TECH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AC2245063	U58200KA2024PTC188959	TECHINATHANI SOFT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AC2294093	U45309KA2018PTC115859	GRETCHINE ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AC2297999	U29309KA2019PTC126704	TARAS E-ON PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AC2290771	U63111KA2023PTC182664	PILOTHOUSE CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/ strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Deputy Registrar
CBC 07123/11/0747/2526 **Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit**

No legal hurdle to provide internal quota within 15%: Madiga leaders

'Proportional recalibration may result in 5.5-5.5-4 formula'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leaders from the Madiga community on Tuesday urged the government to provide internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) by proportionately reducing the 6-6-5 formula within the earlier 15% basket.

Addressing a press conference, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa said: "The advocate general has clarified that there is no problem in providing internal reservation for SCs within the 15% bracket... We met the chief minister today and he has said this issue can be discussed in the Cabinet meeting on March 05... This (internal reservation) must happen and we will resolve it."

While leaders from the Madiga community have supported the government's decision to fill over 56,000 jobs by following the earlier practice of 50% reservation (recruiting 94% jobs and keeping 6% jobs in abeyance, subject to the final decision of the courts), they have opposed the decision excluding internal reservation while recruiting jobs for the 15% quota available to SCs.

Federation seeks Mahadevappa's sacking

The Karnataka Federation of Madiga Organisations has slammed Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa as "extremely casteist" and sought his resignation.

The federation has urged the government to immediately withdraw the order passed on February 27 to initiate recruitment for 56,432 jobs without applying internal reservation.

It has suggested the government to provide internal reservation by considering Madiga and affiliated castes as Group A (6%), nomadic communities as Group B (1%) and Holeya and affiliated castes and Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha communities as Group C. The federation sought internal reservation in all educational institutions from the KG to PhD level.

However, ministers from the SC (Right) community are reportedly not in favour of providing internal reservation during the current recruitment process.

Noting that there had been doubts at the time of the Cabinet meeting on February 26 on whether the court's decision would impact the entire recruitment process, including non-SC jobs, Muniyappa said: "Now it's clarified that the decisions of the court will not impact the non-SC jobs (85%). So, there's no hurdle to provide internal reservation within 15%."

Former MP L Hanumanthaiah urged the government to provide internal reservation by proportionately reducing the 6-6-5 formula (6% for Madigas and affiliated castes, 6% for Holeyas and affiliated castes and 5% Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha and 59 'most backward' communities) for 15%.

"No one is explaining why internal reservation cannot be provided by proportionately reducing the 6-6-5 formula. There's no question of going back."

Leaders explained that a proportional recalibration would mostly result in a 5.5-5.5-4 formula.

Siddaramaiah dismisses phone-tapping allegations

Says bond with Shivakumar is like 'milk and honey'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday rejected allegations by the Opposition leaders that he is indulging in phone-tapping to keep a watch on Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka had alleged that the chief minister had "unofficially" formed an SP-headed team to keep a tab on the Shivakumar camp.

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy had accused Siddaramaiah of "spying" on his own partymen and the state Intelligence was split between the two camps.

"Such allegations reflect on their own mindset and stem from their frustration and political desperation, Siddaramaiah said and accused the Opposition leaders of repeatedly trying to create misunderstandings between him and his deputy.

"It reveals their bitterness, but none of these will impact our strong and cordial relationship. Our relationship is like milk and honey," he claimed.

In a rare gesture, Siddaramaiah praised Shivakumar as a "committed" Congressman.

"The BJP has tried every possible tactic, filed false cases and sent him to jail to break his resolve. But Shivakumar has remained loyal to the party," Siddaramaiah said.

Alleging that Kumaraswamy might have learnt phone-tapping from his father H D Deve Gowda, the CM said the Congress had withdrawn its support to the Deve Gowda government following allegations of misuse of intelligence against its then president, Sitaram Kesari.

"Such distrust and pettiness had cut short a Kannadiga's stint as the PM. In 2018, when Kumaraswamy was the CM, his current political ally B Y Vijayendra had alleged that Adichunchanagiri Mutt's pontiff Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji's phone had been tapped. The CBI had reported that the phones of not one but seven seers had been tapped."

"Now, the BJP might have put Kumaraswamy under surveillance too. People rejected both these parties because of such dubious tendencies," Siddaramaiah charged.

Home Minister Parameshwara categorically denied any phone tapping.

"A political intelligence wing exists to brief the chief minister. But it does not engage in phone tapping or tracking legislators' movements," he said.

It's extension of battle for CM chair, says HDK

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday termed the phone-tapping allegations an extension of the ongoing battle for the chief minister's chair, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

In a statement released to the media, Kumaraswamy said, "I have no interest in measuring the diameter and radius of Congress' internal democracy. But democracy does not mean MLAs abusing the chief minister on the streets."

Questioning Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for taking his father and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda's name, Kumaraswamy asked, "Why do you drag Deve Gowda into every confrontation with me?" "I have lost power twice (as chief minister). Had I engaged in phone tapping, I might have retained power at any cost. If I had chosen that path, I could have uncovered what plots were unfolding within Siddhavana. But I had no such desire, nor do I regret what I lost."

Questioning the chief minister's attempt to bring up Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name, he said, "Why drag Narendra Modi into the stain that clings to you? The people are aware of what is happening in this state." Kumaraswamy dared Siddaramaiah to show the spirit of courage and sacrifice.

"Deve Gowda relinquished the office with dignity. The moment he announced his resignation, (then BJP leader) Atal Bihari Vajpayee extended unconditional support on the floor of the Parliament. Yet, he declined power with humility."

Siddaramaiah.

Allow Karnataka to raise height of Almatti dam, Shivakumar urges Centre

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday urged the Union government to immediately intervene and allow Karnataka to go ahead with raising the height of the Almatti dam (Upper Krishna Project Phase 3) from 518.60 metres to 524.256 metres.

"All three states – Andhra, Telangana and Maharashtra have opposed the project. However, the Andhra Pradesh government has written to the Centre asking it to refrain from giving any approval or gazette notification that allows Karnataka to carry out land acquisition for the proposed project stating the matter is pending before the Supreme Court. I did not expect Andhra Pradesh to react this way," said Shivakumar, while adding that the union water resources secretary had sought Karnataka's response.

Appealing to the Centre to act in accordance with earlier orders and not stall the project, Shivakumar, who is also water resources minister, maintained that the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II) award permitted Karnataka to raise the dam to 524 metres and that there was no stay from the Supreme Court.

The DCM urged the state MPs to appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Jal Shakti minister in this regard, when the Parliament session begins on March 10. He also announced plans to lead an all-party delegation to Delhi.

"The Karnataka Cabinet, on September 16, 2025, decided to acquire 1.33 lakh acres of land in one phase and planned to allocate Rs 70,000 crore for land acquisition alone in three phases. Around Rs 20,000 crore has already been spent on the project and further delays would escalate costs. Also, land compensation has become a major burden, with courts awarding higher payouts after farmers rejected earlier offers of Rs 8–9 lakh per acre during the previous government. After deliberations, compensation is fixed in the range of Rs 35 lakh to Rs 40 lakh per acre, with some awards touching Rs 10 crore through litigation," said Shivakumar.

"A Central committee report clarified that raising the height to 524 metres would not cause floods in Maharashtra (Kolhapur)," he added.

"Our water our land. Further delay will only escalate costs," he said, appealing to MPs from Karnataka to unite and press for the implementation of the tribunal award.

Chikkaballapur SI, ASI held in bribery case

CHIKKABALLAPUR, DHNS: Lokayukta sleuths arrested a police sub-inspector and assistant sub-inspector who had demanded a bribe for filing a 'B' report in a case in Chikkaballapur.

SI Sharanappa and ASI Venkateshappa, attached to the Chikkaballapur Rural police station, had allegedly demanded Rs 1 lakh from a man called Raghu to file a 'B' Report in a case. While the ASI was caught accepting a bribe of Rs 80,000 near the Kannada Bhavan in Chikkaballapur, Sharanappa was arrested somewhere on the outskirts of Chikkaballapur town.

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REQUIRES
1. Biology Teacher: 1 Post - High School (ISC) Qualification : M.Sc., or M.Phil (Botany / Zoology), B.Ed.,
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3. History Teacher : 1 Post – High School (ICSE) Qualification : M.A.,(History) B.Ed.,
4. Geography Teacher : 1 Post - High School (ICSE) Qualification : M.Sc., / M.A., (Geography) B.Ed.,
5. English Teacher : 1 Post - High School (ICSE) Qualification : M.A., (English) B.Ed.,
6. Scripture Teacher : 1 Post Qualification : B.D., / M.A., in Christian studies
7. Music Teacher : 1 Post Qualifiction : Minimum 3rd grade complete in Piano/Guitar and should know to sing
8. Physical Education Teacher : 1 Post Qualification : B.P.Ed., / M.P.Ed.,
Experience : Teachers must have worked in ISC/ ICSE/ CBSE Institution for a minimum period of five years. The candidates should have studied in an English Medium School. All degrees must be obtained from recognized Universities.
The application forms will be available in the School Office from 2nd March 2026 to 18th March 2026 from 9.30 a.m to 1.00 p.m. The last date for submission of filled in application forms with relevant documents is 20th March 2026 by 1.00 p.m.

REQUIRES EXPERIENCED Primary and High School Teachers with B.A / B.Sc., B.Ed / M.A / M.Sc., M.Ed to teach Science, English, Mathematics and Sanskrit. English fluency is must. Walk-in-Interview. Contact Max Muller Public School, Mahalakshmi Layout, B'lore-96. Ph: 23376050. E-mail- maxmullerpublicschool.mlayout@gmail.com

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Gujarat man dies of heart attack while climbing Anjanadri Hill

GANGAVATHI (KOPPAL DISTRICT), DHNS: A devotee from Gujarat suffered a fatal heart attack while climbing the steps of the Anjanadri Hills, believed to be the birthplace of Lord Hanuman, in Gangavathi taluk on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Arjun (54)

Arjun. along with his friends, was on a trip to Hampi and Anjanadri.

Succumbs en route

The incident occurred when Arjun experienced chest pain while climbing the 500-plus steps to the Hanuman temple atop hill. He was rushed to Anegundi primary healthcare centre. Arjun, however, succumbed en route to a hospital in Gangavthi.

The Gangavathi Rural police have registered a case.

As fiscal belt tightens, CM looks to make do with limits

Govt likely to face revenue shortfall of Rs 18,000 crore in current fiscal: Rayareddi

BENGALURU, DHNS

Facing a revenue shortfall amid rising expenditure commitments, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will have to overcome severe fiscal limitations in the 2026-27 Budget, which he is slated to present this Friday.

This will be Siddaramaiah's record 17th outgoing as the finance minister.

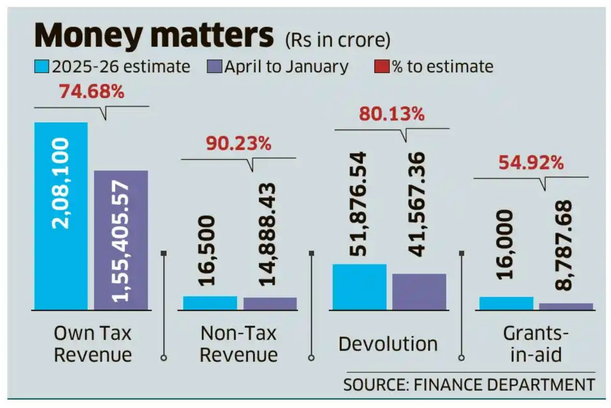
In 2025-26, the government estimated a total expenditure of Rs 4.09 lakh crore. This may be lowered to about Rs 3.9 lakh crore.

According to the chief minister's economic advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi, the government is likely to end up with a revenue shortfall of Rs 18,000 crore in the current fiscal.He blamed this on the GST rate rationalisation in September last year. "States should've been compensated for this," he said.

It is inevitable for Siddaramaiah to look at resource mobilisation measures. But the options are limited, Rayareddi said. "We've exhausted our tax mobilisation. How much more can people pay?" he said. "We're looking at what else we can do with excise revenue."

Excise has been the government's best-performing revenue front. Against the target of Rs 40,000 crore, the government collected Rs 33,370.54 crore, or 83.4%, up to January.

On Tuesday, the government gave one indication of resource mobilisation by creating a new post: secretary (mines). Authorities expect to mop-up an additional Rs 3,000-4,000 crore from the mining sector in the next fiscal. Commercial Taxes commissioner Vipul Bansal has been given concurrent charge of the new post.



Burdens

Siddaramaiah will have to provide for the flagship 'guarantee' schemes. In 2025-26, the government has allocated Rs 51,034 crore for the guarantees. There are calls to trim the outlay on the 'guarantee' schemes.

In addition to this, Siddaramaiah will have to factor in the government's commitment to fill up 56,432 posts, which will add to the ballooning salary costs - from Rs 61,498 crore in 2023-24 to an estimated Rs 85,860 crore this fiscal.

Devolution

In 2026-27, Karnataka will receive Rs 63,049.58 crore as its share in taxes.

This is higher than Rs 50,000 crore that the state will receive under devolution in the current fiscal.

"We're also expecting the state's tax collection to rise by Rs 25,000 crore," Rayareddi said.

Liabilities pegged at Rs 8.14L cr

The Reserve Bank of India has pegged the outstanding liabilities of Karnataka at Rs 8.14 lakh crore. This will be 26.5% of the state's GSDP, violating the permissible limit of 25%. The government's Medium Term Fiscal Plan had estimated outstanding liabilities of Rs 7.64 lakh crore, which is 24.91% of GSDP.

'Will burn Budget if SCSP/TSP funds misused for guarantees'

BENGALURU, DHNS

If the government continues the "misuse" of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) Act in the upcoming Budget, we will burn the Budget, a federation of SC/ST organisations affiliated to BJP claimed on Tuesday.

A round-table conference held by the SC and ST Reservation Protection Forum urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to begin his Budget speech with the sentence, "For this year's guarantee schemes, we will not misuse the funds reserved for Dalits."

Speaking to reporters later, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, noted that the conference had condemned the state government's decision to "divert" Rs 39,000 crore from the SCSP/TSP funds for the guarantees.

"Rs 52,000 crore is needed for the guarantees each year. When Rs 52,000 crore has been set aside for it, why do you need the SCSP/TSP funds for it? You give Rs 2,000 to women from the Vokkaliga community, is that given from the Vokkaliga development corporation?? Is the money for Lingayats given from their corporation?"

He noted that in the Rs 42,018 crore allotted under the SCSP/TSP funds, the government was providing Rs 21,000 crore for guarantees from the SCSP fund and Rs 14,000 crore from the TSP fund. "What remains is merely Rs 7,000 crore. Why do you call it Rs 42,000 crore?" he sought to know.

Apart from former MLA N Mahesh, representatives from over 70 organisations and others participated in the meeting.

Amendment to anti-cow slaughter law to be tabled in Budget session

Govt proposes to release seized cattle vehicles on indemnity bond

BENGALURU, DHNS

The upcoming Budget session of the Karnataka Legislature commencing on March 6, is expected to witness the introduction and discussion of several significant Bills including an amendment to the politically-sensitive anti-cow slaughter bill.

An amendment to the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, to allow vehicles, used for illegal transport of cattle, to be released on an indemnity bond is set to be introduced.

At present, the Act requires a bank guarantee to release the vehicles caught while illegally transporting cattle. A seized vehicle could be released only if the amount of the present value of the vehicle is deposited in the bank and a bank guarantee is issued.

The animal husbandry department noted that small vehicle owners would find it difficult to to get a bank guarantee paying around Rs 3 to 5 lakh.

The ruling Congress is amending the law following a High Court order (October 2022) to release the seized vehicles against an indemnity bond.

The previous BJP government had introduced the stringent 2020 Act, replacing a 1964 law. The old law allowed slaughter of bulls, bullocks and buffaloes aged over 12 years or if they were unfit for breeding or did not yield milk. The BJP government imposed a blanket ban on the slaughter of cows, allowing the slaughter of only terminally-ill cattle and buffaloes above 13 years with permission. The law prohibits transportation of any cattle within and to outside the state for slaughter.

Among the other major proposals is the Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing and Regulation of Events and Venues of Mass Gathering) Bill, 2025, aimed at regulating large public gatherings such as political rallies and festivals. The session will also see the introduction of the Karnataka Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to revise allowances and service conditions of the Lokayukta to bring them on par with senior members of the judiciary, Karnataka Jnana Bhandara Manuscripts and Digitisation Bill, 2026, which proposes conservation and digitisation of manuscripts, and the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to strengthen transparency and secrecy in local body elections.

Additionally, some bills cleared by the state Cabinet are likely to be introduced in the session: Karnataka District Judiciary Reforms Bill, 2025 for reforms in district courts and Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Some legislative proposals cleared by the scrutiny committee and likely to be placed before the Cabinet prior to the session are: Karnataka Kutumba (Access and Management) Bill, 2025 to issue unique household identifiers for governance and planning, Freedom of Choice in Marriage & Anti-Honour Crimes Bill, 2026, for protection of individual rights and prevention of caste-based crimes, Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2025, Mis-Information Regulation Bill, 2025, (Revised), Apartment Ownership (Regulation) Bill, 2025, to rationalise apartment governance laws, Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Exclusion or Injustice) Bill, 2025, on anti-discrimination and education rights, and State Civil Servants (Determination of Age) Bill, 2024, to curb age falsification by government employees.

PRUNING, THE WAY TO GO

Workers spruce up the garden on Vidhana Soudha premises ahead of budget session of the state legislature, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Federation urges CM continue resurvey of former Devadasis

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka unit of the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) on Tuesday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to continue the resurvey of former Devadasis in a comprehensive, fair and transparent manner, stating that the ongoing exercise remains incomplete and flawed.

In a memorandum, the Federation expressed concern that the resurvey conducted in 16 districts by the Karnataka Women Development Corporation under the Women and Child Development Department had identified only 23,395 women, compared to 46,660 recorded in the 2007–08 survey.

The sharp drop indicates gaps in the enumeration process rather than a decline in the number of beneficiaries, the Federation said.

The Federation pointed out that several genuine cases, including names omitted from the previous list and new additions awaiting approval, were left out and alleged that the absence of regular taluk and district-level monitoring meetings and inadequate awareness programmes were responsible for many women remaining out of the re-survey, whose report was submitted to the chief minister in February.

Calling for a house-to-house survey, removal of age restrictions, provision of alternative documentation, and display of updated lists at anganwadi centres, the Federation has also sought strict action against erring officials who include non-Devadasi women in the survey.

I am a street fighter, but my fight is not for power: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday asserted that he is a "street fighter" and knows how to "fight".

Shivakumar's statement brews intrigue as he also stated that what was destined for him would come to him without special efforts.

"I am a street fighter. I know how to fight. My struggle is not for power. It is not within the party, but outside the party. If someone assumes that I am silent, it is their problem," said Shivakumar responding to reporters at Vidhana Soudha.

When asked if there would be a "kranti" (revolution) after the Budget session, Shivakumar asked, "Why should I? I have confidence in myself. I live on faith. I don't have to make special effort as whatever is destined for me will come to me at the right time."

Responding to CM's statement equating their relationship to that of "milk and honey," Shivakumar said he has never spoken about the CM's post. "The matter concerns me, the CM and the high command. I only said when certain decisions were made, I was party to it. But I never said, CM's post will fall vacant or CM will step down or that Dalits should get the CM's post. There are others trying to remove the CM from his chair. Only when the CM's post is vacant we can give it to others. As a party president I know my responsibilities.

The party should not suffer because of my actions or indiscipline. I should not do injustice to my post. This is a party built by me and thousands of party workers. I will never blackmail the party for my personal greed," said Shivakumar.

Hints at relinquishing KPCC chief's post

When asked if he would break G Parameshwara's record (eight years) as the party chief, Shivakumar said, "Party needs new blood and new ideas. We became ministers when we were first-time legislators, myself, Parameshwara, H K Patil, Ramalinga Reddy. We are senior citizens now. Let newcomers grow."

He confirmed he would host a dinner on March 10 marking six years in the post.

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Deputy Manager (IS AUDIT)	43	Regular (MMGS-II)
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Israel steps up airstrikes in Tehran

Tehran, From Page 1

The United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment site had sustained "some recent damage", though there was "no radiological consequence expected".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu maintained, however, that Iran was rebuilding "new sites, new places" underground for making atomic bombs. He offered no evidence to support his claim.

A north Tehran resident has described growing fears in the capital as it comes under heavy bombardment.

An attack from two drones on the US Embassy in Riyadh caused a "limited fire", according to Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry, and the embassy urged Americans to avoid the compound.

It followed an attack on the US Embassy in Kuwait. Both embassies said they were closed to the public.

The US State Department ordered the evacuation of non-emergency personnel and family in Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Qatar, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

The US military has confirmed six deaths of American service members. In addition, three people were killed in the United Arab Emirates, and one each in Kuwait and Bahrain.

Iran has hit many countries deemed safe havens in West Asia in retaliation for the US-Israeli strikes.

Iran has also struck energy facilities in Qatar and Saudi Arabia, and attacked several ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

"The Strait of Hormuz is closed," declared Iranian Brig Gen Ebrahim Jabbari, an adviser to the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, vowing that any ships that passed through it would be set on fire.

Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari vowed that Iranian attacks on the gas-rich country "will not go unanswered".

As oil and natural gas prices climbed, stock prices fell sharply.

The conflict has spread to Lebanon, where Hezbollah fired missiles at Israel on Monday, prompting Israel to retaliate.

On Tuesday, the Israeli military hit Beirut with more airstrikes and said it had moved additional troops into southern Lebanon and taken new positions on several strategic points close to the border.

India flags trade, energy concerns

India, From Page 1

"In recent days, we have not only witnessed an intensification of the conflict but also its spread to other nations. The destruction and deaths have mounted, even as normal life and economic activities come to a halt," the MEA said.

"As a proximate neighbour with critical stakes in the security and stability of the region, these developments evoke great anxiety."

The ministry said almost one crore Indians are living in West Asia and their safety and well-being are of 'utmost priority' for New Delhi. "We cannot be impervious to any development that negatively affects them," it said.

"Our trade and energy supply chains also traverse this geography. Any major disruption has serious consequences for the Indian economy," the ministry said.

"As a country whose nationals are prominent in the global workforce, India is also firmly opposed to attacks on merchant shipping. Already, some Indian nationals have lost their lives or are missing as a result of such attacks in the last few days," it said.

"In this background, India strongly reiterates its call for dialogue and diplomacy. We raise our voice clearly in favour of an early end to the conflict. Already, many lives have been regrettably lost and we express our grief in that regard," it added.

The statement by the MEA, however, was silent on the killing of Ayatollah Khamenei.

The ministry said Indian embassies and consulates in the affected countries remain in close touch with Indian nationals and community organisations, issuing regular advisories.

"They have also extended all possible help to those stranded by the conflict. The embassies and consulates will continue to be proactive in addressing various consular aspects of this conflict," it said.

"We are in touch with the governments of this region as well as other key partners. The prime minister and external affairs minister have held discussions with their counterparts," it added.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast March 04: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	34	18.2	00
Bidar	34.8	19.2	00
Vijayapura	35.2	21.4	00
Dharwad	34.2	19	00
Haveri	34.8	18.6	00
Kalaburagi	37.4	23.9	00
Raichur	35.6	21.2	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	31.3	20.8	00
Karwar	33.6	22.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.8	23.5	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	30.7	17.2	00
Bengaluru	32.4	20	00
Ballari	NA	NA	00
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	34.1	19	00
Davangere	34	17	00
Hassan	32.3	13.8	00
Mysuru	NA	NA	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	32.8	14.4	00

OTHER STATIONS

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
New Delhi	30.9	15.6	00
Kolkata	32.9	20.1	00
Mumbai	31.1	21.6	00
Chennai	33.9	22.2	00
Pune	35.3	17.4	00
Hyderabad	34.8	21.2	00
Th'puram	33.8	23.4	00

KERC hikes commercial, industrial power tariffs

Power tariffs, From Flap

"If the commission's tariff order is implemented for LT-4(a) category (agricultural pump sets), ESCOMs cannot meet this shortfall in revenue, as the same is not provided in the budget. Bescom can neither recover the shortfall from the government nor from the consumers. Therefore, the ESCOMs filed a petition for modification," the petition had noted.

To make up for this shortfall, the ESCOMs had suggested that the KERC bring down the tariff for agricultural pump sets and increase the tariff for commercial and industrial establishments.

Though the industry bodies had raised objections against the review petition, the KERC, on Tuesday, approved the revision, stating that it was important to protect the agricultural economy.

They noted that despite the allocation of subsidy amount to the tune of Rs 16,021 crore by the state government to meet the cost of free power supply to LT-4a consumers, the ESCOMs will not be able to recover the full cost of electricity that would be supplied to the LT-4a consumers.

"The ESCOMs will have no option but ask the LT-4a consumers pay towards the balance amount. Under such circumstances, LT-4a consumers will be put to undue hardships. In order to safeguard the interest of consumers of the LT-4a category and at the same time to ensure that the ESCOMs are able to recover cost of electricity in a reasonable manner, this commission is of the view that the prayer of the review petitioners could be considered," the order said.

Shock for industrialists

The industrialists said that the increase in tariffs will be a huge burden for them. The impact is especially high given the geopolitical situations and the tariff imposition by the US, the industrialists said.

"The situation is already bad, there is a war going on and the supply chain is likely to be disrupted. Recently, the US has also imposed tariff in exports and this has also impacted business. The government had promised to protect the industrialists. But this order comes as a big shock to us," said Uma Reddy, President, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI). The FKCCI is also exploring the possibility of challenging the order.

Amidst concerns that the revision in power tariff could increase the operational costs, the industrialists are also worried if the order could be retrospective.

The order passed by the KERC said that the tariff revision was for FY 2025-26. While it does not directly say that the revision will apply retrospectively, sources in Bescom said that the order indirectly means that it can be applied retrospectively and they will soon hold a discussion to chalk out the finer details.

Industrialists say that this would impact their business adversely and result in heavy losses.

Hoax bomb threats disrupt proceedings at three district courts

Members of bomb disposal squad conduct a search at the district court in Kalaburagi on Tuesday.

KALABURAGI/HASSAN/BELAGAVI, DHNS: Three district court complexes were sent into a tizzy after mails threatening a bomb blast were sent to each of them on Tuesday. After a thorough search of the premises of the three courts, police confirmed that each of the threats was a hoax.

Officials at the Kalaburagi district court opened an email, sent around 5.40am, that claimed that an RDX bomb filled with cyanide gas would go off at 11.50 am in the judge's room. The staff opened the mail only around 10.45 am, and immediately alerted the police, who rushed to the spot. Three-hour search by bomb disposal and canine squads established that threat was hoax.

Panic in Hassan court

A near identical mail was sent to the Hassan district court. It mentioned Ajmal Kasab, the notorious terrorist involved in the 26/11 Mumbai attack. No explosive was found after a thorough search of the premises

The principal district and sessions court in Belagavi witnessed frenetic activity over an email threatening a bomb blast. A police team along with bomb disposal and canine squads descended on the court complex, and scoured the premises for suspicious material. And no bomb was found. Belagavi Police Commissioner Bhushan Borase confirmed that the mail was a hoax.

BDA aims to earn Rs 550 cr from...

BDA, From Flap

"Instead of carving out sites that will help fewer people, the auctioning of bulk land will lead to efficient use of land as one can build more houses on an acre of land," he said, adding the government has also approved the proposal.

There are however questions over whether the 16 sites fall under the ambit of 'commercial' use given that at least 14 sites are part of residential layouts. "As per the rule, up to 3% of the layout can be earmarked for commercial sites but most older layouts did not follow the rule and secondly, the maximum size of a commercial plot does not exceed 50x80 square feet," a source said, raising doubts over the BDA's e-auction list which carries plots that are as big as three acres.

Multiple sources who have knowledge of the BDA Act said the high court has in the past struck down government orders when attempts were made to classify residential sites as commercial plots based on a certain width of road. "The BDA must relook at the original layout plan as well as the master plan before completing the e-auction," they said.

Carnatic musician Ganasaraswathy dead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Acclaimed Carnatic musician L Ganasaraswathy died earlier this week, her brother-violinist L Subramaniam said on Tuesday. She was 82 and was at her daughter's house in Los Angeles.

"Ganam was a devoted musician, vocalist and prolific composer who wrote over 600 original songs bearing her signature Ganam, Ganapriya, and Gana Rasigha," he said.

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ತಾಪಂ/ತಿನಪು/ಲೆ.ಶಾ/ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026

GeM Portal - ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ಅನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿತ/ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಿಠೋಪಕರಣ ಹಾಗೂ I.T ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳು, ಬಿಕನ್ ಲೈಬ್ರರಿ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ತಪಾಸಣಾ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ GeM-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ GeM Portal-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತ 51.90 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಗಳು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು EMD ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.03.2026

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ.

DIPR/DDMYS/1766/KSMCA/998/2025-26

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)

O & M Zone, "Shakthi Soudha", Bondel, Mangalore - 575015

Ph: 0824-2425888 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: CEE/MZ/SEE(O)/EE(C)/25-26/ 9734-37 Date: 30.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd call) (Through KPP portal Only)

MESCOM Invites tender for 1 Civil Engineering work through KPPP portal from registered KPWD Contractors with EPF, ESI & GST registration in accordance with KTPP Act.

Tender No.	Work Details
MESCOM/2025-26/OW WORK_INDENT388-CALL 2	Providing and fixing D.G Set for emergency power supply at Division office, Udupi

For details contractors can access through KPPP website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **06.03.2026** further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1692/25-26 dt: 03.03.2026 Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Ele.)

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

GOVT. TOOL ROOM & TRAINING CENTRE

Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560010.

Ph: 080-23157189, Fax: 080-23301683

e-Mail: gttc.projects@karnataka.gov.in

Website: www.karnataka.gov.in/gttc

Ref: GTTC/PROJ/CONS/PMC/BID-159/2025-26 Date: 02.03.2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tenders are invited from eligible Project Management Consultants (PMC) with Third Party Inspection for the work of Supervision, Execution & Quality Control of new Projects. Tender documents are available on KPP Portal from **04.03.2026,** and the date of Pre-Bid Meeting: **12.03.2026** and the last date for uploading documents on the e-portal: **20.03.2026 up to 5:30 PM**. Further details can be obtained through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or on Helpline No:**+ 91 80 23010900 + 91 80 23010901** during office hours.

Sd/- Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.

I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/4059/2025-26/5050 Dated:02.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tender from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 6 work, As per standard bid documents KW-3 & 4 with Different Head Of Account costing of Maximum And Minimum amount for Rs. 200.00 Lakhs & 65.00 Lakhs, the EMD Maximum And Minimum amount of Rs. 3,00,000/- & Rs. 1,30,000.00/-. For the works. For the above works G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows (1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors.Date-09-03-2026 at 11:00 AM (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date-17.03.2026 upto 4.30 PM. (3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-18.03.2026 at 4.31 PM. (4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-20.03.2026 at 11.00 AM On words Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777) or office of the undersigned

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur

DIPR/VIJAYAPURA/769/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿ.,

ನಂ.32, 3ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಅರಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ (ರೇಸ್‌ಕೋರ್ಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 001

ದೂ: 080-22268018 / 19

ಚುನಾವಣಾ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಗೆ ಚುನಾವಣಾ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಮುಂದಿನ 5 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.03.2026 ರಂದು ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಸಂಬಂಧ, ಚುನಾವಣಾ ನೋಟೀಸನ್ನು ಅರ್ಹ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಸಂಘಗಳಿಗೆ, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.03.2026 ರಂದು ತ್ವರಿತ ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ನೋಟೀಸು ತಲುಪದೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಇದನ್ನೇ ಚುನಾವಣಾ ನೋಟೀಸು ಎಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿ, ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿಯಂತೆ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳ ವಿವರ	ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1.	ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ	06.03.2026, ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ: 11.00 ರಿಂದ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ: 3.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2.	ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	12.03.2026, ಗುರುವಾರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ: 11.00 ರಿಂದ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ: 3.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
3.	ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	13.03.2026, ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ: 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಿಂದ
4.	ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಹಿಂತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	14.03.2026, ಶನಿವಾರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ: 3.00 ಘಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ
5.	ಅಗತ್ಯಬಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತದಾನ ನಡೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಸ್ಥಳ ಮತ್ತು ಮತದಾನದ ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.03.2026, ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ: 9.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ: 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿ., ನಂ.32, 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಡಿ.ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಅರಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ (ರೇಸ್‌ಕೋರ್ಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-01 ಇದರ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ

ಸ್ಥಳ : ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03.03.2026

ಸಹಿ/- (ಉಮೇಶ್ ಡಿ.ಎಸ್), ರಿಟರ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

E-mail:bcmyadgiri03@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ:08473:253742.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಎರಡನೇ ಮಹಡಿ,ಕೋಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಸಿ-4, ಚಿತ್ತಾಪೂರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ

ಜಿಹಿಂವಕಇಯಾ/ಲೆಕ್ಕ/ಹೊ.ಮೂ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್- /2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.02.2026

:: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ::

ವಿಷಯ: 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು ಮತ್ತು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಪ್‌ರೇಟರ್ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಮಾನವಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು ಮತ್ತು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಪ್‌ರೇಟರ್ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (E-Procurement) ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬುಕ್‌ಲೆಟ್ ಒಟ್ಟು (16) ಪುಟಗಳು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪುಟಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಓದಿ ಅದರಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸುವುದು.

::ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಂತದ ಘಟನಾವಳಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜರುಗಿಸಲು ಸಿದ್ದಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕಾಲಬದ್ಧ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ::

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.02.2026 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 320.00 ಲಕ್ಷ (ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ರೂ 27.00 ಲಕ್ಷದಂತೆ) 3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 4.80 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು.: 27.02.2026 5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026 6) ಪ್ರಿ-ಬಿಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.03.2026 7) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ: 13.04.2026 8) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ(TENATIVE): 15.04.2026 9) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ (TENATIVE): 23.04.2026 10) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08473-253742

1) ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 2) ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೌತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕವರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದವುಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 3) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 6 ಮತ್ತು 7 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಮಿತಿಯ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಕೂಲತೆಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ (ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ) ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೊಳಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. 4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಿಂದ ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಇ ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತರಿದ್ಧ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರ ಸಮಕ್ಷಮಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. (ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು ಅನುಪಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮುಂದುವರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ.) 6) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿತ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬುಕ್‌ಲೆಟ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಶುಲ್ಕಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಡಿಡಿ(ಹುಂಡಿ)ಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. 7) ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಇದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ರವರು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಯಾದಗಿರಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/562/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025-26

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences Madikeri

(Government of Karnataka- Autonomous Institution)

Ph-08272-298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in

No: DME/2025-26/IND2117 Date: 27-02-2026

Tender Notification

Under Signed invites e-tender notification in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal **https:kppp.karanataka.gov.in** GOK, for the **Supply of Consumables To** KoIMS Teaching Hospital Madikeri. Last date for upload is 13-03-2026 for more information contact-e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Director and Dean KoIMS Madikeri

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಉನಪಾ, ಅಮೃತಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ, ಬ್ಯಾಟರಾಯನಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560092

ನಂ.: ಬೆಂ.ಉ.ನ.ಪಾ/ಜಂ.ಆ/ವ-1/576/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.03.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಬ್ಯಾಟರಾಯನಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಸೇತುವೆಗೆ, ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಜಿ ಸಚಿವರ ಹೆಸರುಗಳನ್ನು ಇಡಲು ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಸಮ್ಮತಿ / ಅನಿಸಿಕೆ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವನ್ನು, ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಅಮೃತಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬ್ಯಾಟರಾಯನಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು- 560092 ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **11.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:30** ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

1) ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ-07ರಿಂದ ಮಾಲ್ ಆಫ್ ಏಷ್ಯ ಪಕ್ಕದ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ - ಸಹಕಾರನಗರ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಸಮಾನಾಂತರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕೊಡಿಗೇಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ - ಭದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ವರ್ತುಲ ರಸ್ತೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ - ಮಾಜಿ ಮಂತ್ರಿ ದಿವಂಗತ ಬಿ. ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ರಸ್ತೆ.

2) ಯಲಹಂಕ - ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ಪಾಳ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ - ಜಿ.ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕೆ ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್ ಪಕ್ಕದ ರಸ್ತೆ - ಸಹಕಾರನಗರ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಕೆಳಸೇತುವೆವರೆಗೆ - ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ದಿವಂಗತ ಎಸ್.ಎಂ. ಕೃಷ್ಣ ರಸ್ತೆ.

3) ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ ಹೆಗಡೆ ನಗರ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಇರುವ ಮೇಲ್ಸೇತುವೆಗೆ - ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ದಿವಂಗತ ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ ಹೆಗಡೆ ಮೇಲ್ಸೇತುವೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು (ಆಡಳಿತ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಜಲ ಮತ್ತು ನೆಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ವಾಲ್ಮಿ)

ಬೇಲೂರು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತು, ಧಾರವಾಡ - 580011.

ಫೋನ್/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836-2486893/889 ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9448386889

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: directorwalmidharwad@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ವಾಲ್ಮಿ/ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು/ಇ-ಆ್ಯಕ್ಷನ್/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03-03-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಜಲ ಮತ್ತು ನೆಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಬೇಲೂರು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತು, ಧಾರವಾಡ - 580011 ಕಚೇರಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅರ್ಹ Nationalized Public Sector Banks and Private Scheduled Commercial Banks ರವರಿಂದ Competitive Interest Rates on Fixed Deposit ಪ್ರತಿಶತ ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Category	EMD (in Rs.)	Period	Category/ Class of Contractors
1	e-Tender invited from Private Scheduled Commercial Banks for Providing Competitive Interest Rates on Fixed Deposit. **No. WALMI/ 2025-26/SE0007**	**50.80**	Fixed Deposit	**10000.00**	365 Days	Private Scheduled Commercial Banks
2	e-Tender invited from Nationalized Public Sector Banks for Providing Competitive Interest Rates on Fixed Deposit. **No. WALMI/ 2025-26/SE0008**	**76.20**	Fixed Deposit	**10000.00**	365 Days	Nationalized Public Sector Banks

ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಗದಿತ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಶುಲ್ಕದೊಂದಿಗೆ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ, ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **04-03-2026 ರಿಂದ 20-03-2026 ರವರೆಗೆ** ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20-03-2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ**. ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23-03-2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ**. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ವಿವರ, ಪೂರ್ವಾರ್ಹತೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **0836-2486889** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಜಲ ಮತ್ತು ನೆಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಬೇಲೂರು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತು, ಧಾರವಾಡ- 580011

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1305/ಅಡ್ವಟೋರ್/2025-26

When Khamenei came to Kashmir: A visit that softened sectarian lines

His India tour also included Karnataka to inaugurate an Iran-funded hospital

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Years before he became the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made a brief but historically significant visit to the Kashmir Valley in July 1980 — a trip that remains alive in local memory as a rare moment of religious outreach and cross-sectarian engagement.

At 41, Khamenei was a rising cleric within the newly formed Islamic Republic, part of efforts to reach out to Muslim communities abroad following the Iranian Revolution.

His India tour initially included Karnataka, where he was to inaugurate an Iranian-funded hospital. However, according to local accounts, Iran's then Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini directed him to add Kashmir to the itinerary in order to meet Aga Syed Yousuf Al-Moosavi Al-Safavi, a senior Kashmiri Shia scholar who had supported the Iranian Revolution.

Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei (right) addresses a gathering in Srinagar in 1980. IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ARCHIVES

"Ayatollah Khamenei visited the residence of Aga Syed Yousuf in Budgam and spent five hours with him in his library. It was July 1980," recalled Aga Yousuf, grandson of Aga Syed Yousuf Al-Moosavi Al-Safavi, while speaking to *DH*.

Aga Syed Yousuf Al-Moosavi Al-Safavi was a towering figure in Kashmir's Shia community, founder of the Anjuman-e-Sharie Shian, and a revered scholar trained in Najaf, Iran.

Khamenei's Kashmir itinerary, though lasting only about 48 hours, remains vivid in the recollections of those who were present.

He joined congregational prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, along with then Mirwaiz Molvi Mohammad Farooq — a leading cleric who was later assassinated in 1990 by militants.

Eyewitnesses and contemporary accounts describe the sermon he delivered at the mosque as an address aimed at emphasising unity and communal harmony.

Kashmiri activist Qalbi Hussain Rizvi described the anticipation of Khamenei's arrival. "We rented a taxi and installed a loudspeaker on it, announcing to the whole city of Srinagar that the leader would arrive the next day."

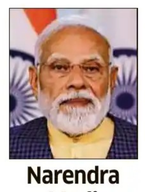
The sermon reportedly helped ease long-standing distrust between Shia and Sunni communities.

Shias' presence in Sunni mosques was often frowned upon, but after Khamenei's visit, Shias and Sunnis began attending each other's mosques, marking a small but meaningful shift in communal practice.

Beyond Jamia Masjid, Khamenei's itinerary included visits to the Zadibal Imambara and the revered Hazratbal Shrine, reflecting his engagement with multiple strands of Kashmir's Muslim population.

PM speaks to heads of Oman, Qatar & Kuwait

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid conflict in West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to several heads of countries in the region, expressing concern over attacks on their nations.



Narendra Modi

The PM had telephonic talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman, Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

During his telephonic conversations, Modi also condemned the violation of the three countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity and discussed with the leaders the welfare and security of the Indian community residing there.

"Condemned the violation of Oman's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We agreed that sustained diplomatic engagement is essential for the earliest restoration of regional peace and stability. Deeply appreciated Oman's continued support to the Indian community," Modi said in a post on X.

He appreciated the Kuwaiti leadership's continued support to ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian community in that country.

During Modi's talks with the Amir of Qatar, both leaders emphasised the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region through dialogue and diplomacy. He conveyed his appreciation for Emir's continued support and care for the Indian community in Qatar during this challenging time.

Qatar cuts gas supplies to Indian industry

NEW DELHI, PTI: Qatar, India's largest supplier of imported natural gas, has declared force majeure on deliveries following a halt in production in the wake of an Iranian drone strike, a disruption that has led to a cut in supplies to Indian industry by up to 40%, sources said.

Qatar supplies about 40% of the nearly 27 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) that India imports annually to meet demand across sectors ranging from power generation and fertiliser production to CNG distribution and piped cooking gas networks.

Gas importer Petronet LNG Ltd. has informed gas marketers of Qatar about halting its liquefied natural gas production after Iran continued to strike Gulf countries, they said.

The attacks have also effectively brought oil and LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz to a near halt, driving up global energy prices as well as sharply raising war-risk insurance and shipping costs.

Sources said Petronet has informed its gas offtakers, GAIL (India) Ltd and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), about a halt in supplies from Qatar.

The gas marketers have, in turn, cut supplies to industries while maintaining flow rates for CNG retailing.

The cuts range from 10% to 40%, they said.

Petronet has a long-term contract to buy 8.5 million tonnes per annum of LNG from Qatar.

Russia offers India a helping hand with energy supplies

NEW DELHI, PTI: Russia is ready to fully meet India's energy requirements in the event of prolonged disruptions to oil and gas supplies triggered by the escalating tensions in West Asia, an official from the Embassy of the Russian Federation said on Monday.

The assurance from Moscow gains added urgency as QatarEnergy suspended liquefied natural gas (LNG) production and related products on March 2 after an Iranian drone struck critical infrastructure at Ras Laffan Industrial City and Mesaieed Industrial City.

"We are ready to fulfill demands of India's energy needs in case of continued disruption of energy supplies," the official said.

Energy supply concerns heightened after Iran blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route for international trade.

India depends on the region for a large share of its crude oil and LNG imports, although it has diversified its sourcing in recent years with substantially higher volumes from Russia.

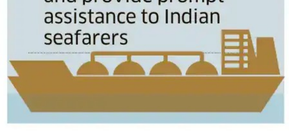
West Asia conflict: 35 Indian ships stranded

Over 1,000 seafarers stuck as Strait of Hormuz shuts

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

CRISIS-HIT

- Vessels carrying crude oil and LNG from Gulf nations to Indian ports stuck
- Directorate General of Shipping is in regular touch with the shipping companies
- The Centre has set up a quick response team to coordinate efforts and provide prompt assistance to Indian seafarers



Over 35 Indian-flagged ships carrying over 1,000 seafarers are stranded in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the surrounding sea regions due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

As the key shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz is closed due to the crisis, vessels carrying crude oil and LNG to Indian ports, as well as others on their way to bring petroleum products from Gulf nations, have been stuck, according to Shipping Ministry officials.

The Directorate General of Shipping is in regular touch with the shipping companies and closely monitoring the situation.

Shipping Minister Sarbanada Sonowal chaired a review meeting on Tuesday to assess the security situation in the Persian Gulf and its impact on Indian maritime assets and personnel.

At least three Indian seafarers on board foreign-flagged vessels were killed, and one was injured in West Asia due to the conflict.

The ministry has set up a quick response team to coordinate efforts and provide prompt assistance to Indian seafarers and their families.

Shipping companies and RPSLs are advised to exercise caution in crew deployment and maintain communication with seafarers and their families. Helpline numbers have also been activated and shared with the families of the seafarers through RPSLs.

The Directorate General of Shipping has advised maritime operators to assess voyage-specific risks due to disruptions in shipping routes and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran, a statement from the Shipping Ministry said.

It is closely monitoring the evolving maritime security situation in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the adjoining sea areas, and the threats of the recent geopolitical developments, including missile and drone activity, electronic interference, and other maritime security concerns.

Majority of Indian students shifted out of Tehran

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Tuesday said its mission in Iran has relocated the majority of Indian students from Tehran in view of the precarious security situation in the Iranian capital city.

India's move came as the conflict in West Asia intensified with the US and Israel carrying out fresh attacks on Iran while Tehran continued to pound several Gulf countries in retaliation.

"Due to the heightened risk perception in Tehran city, the embassy of India has relocated most Indian students who were in Tehran," the Indian mission said.

The students were taken to locations outside of Tehran.

The embassy said it has made arrangements for the transportation, food, and accommodation of the students. "Only a small number of students who declined the embassy's offer remain in Tehran," it said.

"For other Indian students and Indian nationals who still remain in Iran, the advisory issued earlier remains unchanged: stay where you are, remain indoors as far as possible, and stay away from windows," the embassy said.

In the fresh advisory, the embassy also urged the Indians to exercise caution at all times, avoid visiting areas of protests or demonstrations and remain in regular contact with the mission.

Around 9,000 Indians including students are learnt to be stuck in Iran. The exact number of Indian students in Iran is not immediately known.

The conflict in West Asia intensified with Iran carrying out fresh strikes targeting Israel and American military bases in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia after the US and Israel attacked Iran on Saturday.

As part of its offensive, Iran has blocked strategically located strait of Hormuz.

Sagar Rai Soni, who was stranded in Dubai amid the US-Israel conflict with Iran, carries his daughter as he arrives at the Mumbai airport on Tuesday. REUTERS

'Scary situation': Fliers from Dubai recollect horrific blasts

CHENNAI, PTI

Whether the transit passenger or a family enjoying a holiday in Dubai, the armed conflict in West Asia threw a spanner in their plans to return home, with fliers stranded there amid explosions before resuming that long journey back home.

Those who arrived here from the conflict-hit region recollected sounds of explosions and roads becoming empty during their brief stay in Dubai after the US-Israel attack on Iran escalated with the latter hitting back at targets in the UAE, among others.

Several passengers heaved a sigh of relief over the safe return on Tuesday and thanked the Central and state governments for the arrangements.

Shubha, a passenger from New York who was supposed to return to Chennai on Sunday, described how the roads wore a deserted look and added it was a "scary situation" in Dubai.

"Coming back here is like a freedom. I am coming from New York. I had a layover in Dubai on Saturday. In the afternoon around 1 pm that day, they (airline authorities) said that the Dubai airspace had been closed," she told reporters at the airport here.

Indian carriers to run 58 flights today

Indian carriers plan to operate 58 flights on Wednesday to West Asia, even as hundreds of passengers returned to India. "A total of 24 flights are being operated by Indian carriers today. In addition, Emirates and Etihad have operated 9 flights from the Gulf in the past 24 hours. Indian carriers are further planning 58 flights on March 4," the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

"Emirates Airlines and Dubai airport took care of us very well and immediately moved us to hotels. We were staying there in hotels. However, after reaching the hotel, we were told that some debris or something like shrapnel fell at the Dubai airport, causing some damage," she recalled.

"Scary situations prevailed during our stay, as we could hear explosions every few hours. During nights we were able to see the missiles. Today, we are very happy to be back home, safe and alive," she said.

Chennai resident Karthik, who had gone with his family for a tour to Dubai, said, "We went for a tour last Tuesday (Feb 24). We were supposed to return on Saturday. But on Saturday we got the news about the closure of airspace."

He said due to the airspace closure there might be some delays on the flight operations but never knew that the flights would be cancelled. "We returned to the hotel on the same day and stayed there. We were able to hear sounds of missiles. Thankfully, we managed to get ticket for our journey today and came back to Chennai," he said.

Another passenger Syed Ali said, "Upon hearing the news, several children started to cry due to the situation at the Dubai airport. However, the hotel authorities helped us a lot and accommodated us."

"Nearly 20,000 people were seen standing in long queues and were sent to various hotels. We should thank both the Central and state governments for taking steps for our safe return," Ali, who hails from Nagoor in Tamil Nadu, said.

Govt's silence is not neutral, it is abdication: Sonia slams Modi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid India's decision not to condemn the assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Congress on Tuesday intensified its attack on the Modi government, with senior leader Sonia Gandhi saying the silence is "not neutral" but "abdication".

Sonia Gandhi

Describing PM Narendra Modi's "political endorsement" of Israel "without moral clarity" as a "visible and troubling departure", she called for a debate "without evasion" in Parliament when it reconvenes next Monday for the second part of the Budget Session on the government's "disturbing silence" over the breakdown of the international order.

In her article in a national daily, Sonia said the killing of a head of state "in the midst of ongoing negotiations" marks a "grave rupture" in international relations. Beyond the shock of the event, she said, what stands out is New Delhi's "silence".

Criticising the government for not condemning the assassination and the violation of Iranian sovereignty, she said Modi confined himself to condemning Iran's retaliatory strike on the UAE without addressing the events that preceded it.

EC to notify Assembly poll schedule after March 10

NEW DELHI, DHNS

First after SIR

- First elections in states following Special Intensive Revision
- Preparatory visits done in Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu
- Kerala visit on March 6-7; West Bengal on March 9-10

Assembly terms end in May-June across five states

The Election Commission is likely to announce the schedule for Assembly elections in five states — Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and West Bengal — any time after March 10, once it concludes its review visits led by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Preparatory visits were completed in Assam, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu last month. Officials said Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi are set to visit Kerala on March 6-7, followed by West Bengal on March 9-10.

Sources said that the EC could announce the schedule as early as next week, after completing its state visits to assess the ground situation. These will be the first elections in these states following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The terms of the Assemblies will end on May 7 in West Bengal, May 10 in Tamil Nadu, May 20 in Assam, May 23 in Kerala and June 15 in Puducherry.

During their visits, the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners will hold meetings with registered political parties in the states.

They will also conduct detailed review sessions with enforcement agency heads and nodal officers, Inspectors General, Deputy Inspectors General, District Electoral Officers, Superintendents of Police, and others.

The discussions will cover every aspect of election planning — including EVM management, logistics, training of election staff, seizures, law and order, voter awareness and outreach activities.

During the meeting in Assam, where polls were held in three phases in 2021, parties demanded that the elections be conducted in a single phase. Five years ago, polls were held in a single phase in Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, while West Bengal went to the polls in eight phases.

The SIR is likely to dominate this round of Assembly elections, as non-BJP parties have raised concerns over voter deletions.

In Assam, where a Special Revision was conducted instead of the SIR, around three lakh voters were deleted compared to the draft list.

In Tamil Nadu, 54.07 lakh voters (8.43%) were deleted after the SIR, while Kerala recorded 8.97 lakh deletions (3.22%) and Puducherry 77,367 (7.5%).

In West Bengal, the voter count declined from 7.66 crore to 6.44 crore — a drop of 1.21 crore.

Gogoi to contest Assam Assembly polls for first time

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

It's official. Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi will contest the Assam Assembly elections for the first time.

On Tuesday, the Opposition party released its first list of 42 candidates, which included Gogoi — Deputy Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha and president of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee — along with the sons of two senior leaders.

The list also features 11 current and former MLAs, including Congress Legislature Party leader Debabrata Saikia, son of former CM Hiteswar Saikia.

Elections for Assam's 126-member Assembly are slated for April.

Veteran leaders Pranati Phukan, Ajit Singh (former ministers), Ripun Bora, former APCC president and Rajya Sabha member Nandita Das (presently MLA), Nurul Huda and Durga Bhumij (former MLAs) are among the prominent faces in the first list. It also has five women candidates.

The party's first list sought to represent diverse communities, in line with its push for a "secular and inclusive" image to counter the BJP's "infiltrators" narrative. Five Muslim candidates feature in the list.

Candidate pick

Five Muslim candidates fielded in secular, inclusive pitch

Sons of senior leaders Rakibul Hussain, Pawan Singh Ghatowar also in list

Five women candidates, including Mira Borthakur Goswami in Dispur

Gogoi named from Jorhat, his Lok Sabha seat since 2014

Gaurav Gogoi, son of former CM Tarun Gogoi, has been named as a candidate in the Assamese-dominated Jorhat constituency. He had been elected to the Lok Sabha thrice from Jorhat (2014-2024), but this will be his first Assembly poll contest.

Gogoi's fight is significant given Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's constant attacks on him, including allegations of links with Pakistan.

DMK councillor held for sexually harassing air hostess

CHENNAI, DHNS: A DMK councillor and his friend, who is an AIADMK functionary, have been arrested for allegedly sexually harassing an air-hostess on board a flight, police said here on Tuesday.

The incident took place on February 25, when the DMK councillor Prabakaran, 45, from Thiruvallur Municipality, and his friend Thiyagu, 40, an AIADMK functionary, travelled on an Indigo flight from Chennai to Delhi.

The airline staff lodged a complaint with the airport police on February 26

HOUSE PANEL

Speaker Birla sets up multi-party Privileges Committee

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Nearly two years after the new Lok Sabha was constituted, Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday announced the setting up of a multi-party Privileges Committee to be headed by senior BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, with MPs Jagadish Shettar, Manish Tewari, and TR Baalu as members.

Om Birla

BJP has seven members in the panel, while Congress has three, and DMK, Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena, and Shiv Sena (UBT) have one MP each.

The BJP members in the panel are Prasad, Shettar, Jagdambika Pal, Trivendra Singh Rawat, Brijmohan Agarwal, Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, and Ramvir Bidhuri. From the NDA side, Shiv Sena's Shrirang Appa Chandu Barne is the only other member. Congress has Lok Sabha Whip Manickam Tagore, who is under suspension till the end of the Budget Session, and senior MP Tariq Anwar in the panel along with Tewari.

Usually, the Privileges Committee is set up soon after the commencement of a new Lok Sabha, and thereafter, the Speaker nominates members to it from time to time. In the previous Lok Sabha, the committee was set up four months after the 17th LS was constituted.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Strategic silence is a policy drift

On February 28, when West Asia was thrown into the middle of an illegal war that the United States and Israel launched on Iran, India expressed deep "concern". In a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, it struck an almost perfunctory note of diplomacy, drawing on an arrangement of words that carry weight during any military escalation: restraint, dialogue, civilian safety, territorial integrity, sovereignty. The statement did not mention Israel or the US. That India, in its first official response after the offensive, chose not to name the principal instigators of a war that directly assaults the idea it referenced in the statement – *sovereignty* – is telling. In the complex theatre of geopolitics, silence can be strategic; it can even mean principled autonomy. However, India's response to the standoff is marked by selective distancing; when seen in the context of its deepening engagement with Israel and its outreach to the Gulf states after Tehran's counter-strikes, this signals a policy drift steered by pragmatism.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with leaders of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, and Jordan, condemning the attacks, affirming "support for peace", and thanking them for taking care of Indian expatriates. India, which has had close relations with Iran, is yet to react to the targeted killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Its ties with Israel are increasingly shaped by realpolitik. The two countries are also part of I2U2, the geoeconomic grouping formed along with the US and the UAE. India's muted position on the war falls between celebratory endorsement by some of the American allies and condemnation by a few major powers, including China and Russia. Its compulsions to find a balance between Israel and the Arab states in a region critical to its energy and connectivity interests may pass the strategic test. But the larger question is: Can India let tangible gains override historical, ideological positions, pushing itself to a point of unconditional engagement with Israel?

India's muted response to the US-Israel offensive on Iran signals a shift from long-held principles

Hints to the answer did emerge during Prime Minister Modi's late-February visit to Tel Aviv. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, declared a criminal by the International Court of Justice, had points to gain from Modi's presence. In his address to the Knesset, Modi spoke about the "pain" and "grief" India shared with Israel over the lives lost in Hamas' terror attack on October 7, 2023. He did not mention the more than 72,000 killed in Israel's strikes on Gaza. The silence also complemented India's proclamation of firm support, "...in this moment, and beyond", at a time when Israel was building up for a unilateral war on Iran.

Election spending: Mind the gap

Donations received by political parties in India have been a subject of intense debate, raising concerns over the lack of transparency, electoral malpractices, etc. The system of electoral bonds, introduced in 2018, drew significant criticism. After the Supreme Court ruled that the bonds were unconstitutional, political funding returned to the old system of electoral trusts and direct donations. According to information available for 2024-25, 82% of such donations went to the BJP. The total donations received by all parties have increased considerably. While the extent and impact of this funding are widely discussed publicly, the political expenditure of parties has not generated similar interest.

On February 26, the Supreme Court issued a notice to the Union government and the Election Commission of India (ECI) on a petition seeking a ceiling on election spending. The gap between the expenditure of the BJP and the other parties has been widening over the last 10 years. Its impact on political outcomes, particularly during elections, should cause concern. According to data provided to the ECI, the BJP spent about Rs 3,355 crore on elections in 2024-25 while the Congress spent Rs 897 crore. In 2014-15, the BJP spent Rs 925 crore on elections, compared to the Congress's Rs 582 crore. The BJP spent Rs 1,352 crore in 2019-2020, compared to the Congress's Rs 864 crore. In 2024-25, the BJP spent about four times as much as the Congress, the principal opposition party. These gaps carry significance in a year of multiple Assembly elections.

Growing disparities in poll expenditure undermine the fundamental principle of a level playing field

Elections are costly endeavours that involve extensive logistics, electronic and social media campaigns, support mobilisation, and various forms of public outreach. A party that can spend more on these has a built-in advantage over the others. Money, though not the deciding factor in many elections, is a critical component in the larger poll infrastructure. It ensures greater visibility and deeper access to the voter. Elections, in spirit, test parties and candidates on their ideas, ideologies, conduct, and commitment to democratic principles and practices. The ability of one party and its candidates to outspend their rivals can make such tests unequal. There cannot be an issue of permissibility when it is about parties spending what they rightfully can, to win elections they want to. But legality cannot be the only yardstick. Democracy assumes that all contestants in the fray have an even field and equal opportunities. An uneven pitch risks diluting this fundamental idea.

A FUTURE MORTGAGED?

When freebies run on felled trees

India cannot afford to finance election-driven promises by derailing its ecological and economic futures

AJIT RANADE

There are moments in public life when a single news item captures the moral and fiscal drift of an entire political system. Last week, Maharashtra's forest minister reportedly said that teak plantations worth Rs 12,000 crore may be monetised, including felling mature teak trees, to help raise funds and repay loans, partly necessitated by the mounting fiscal burden of welfare commitments such as the Ladki Bahin scheme. The annual outlay for that scheme alone is estimated between Rs 36,000 and Rs 46,000 crore, which is over 5% of the state's total expenditure.

For a moment, we may pause and reflect on the symbolism. Forests are not surplus inventory. They are ecological assets meant for future generations. They are carbon sinks in a climate-stressed world. They regulate water cycles, protect biodiversity, and serve as natural insurance against environmental collapse. To cut them down to finance annual revenue expenditure, especially recurring cash transfers, is not merely a budgetary decision. It is intergenerational liquidation. If trees are felled this year to fund this year's freebie burden, what will be cut next year? Even if the teak plantation stock is being marketed as a "departmental asset", the political symbolism is unavoidable: the state is contemplating drawing down long-lived environmental capital to service recurring revenue commitments.

This is not an isolated case. Across India, competitive populism has acquired new velocity. It has been enabled by technology. The JAM trinity – Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar identity, and mobile connectivity – has made direct benefit transfers seamless. More than 500 million no-frills bank accounts, Aadhaar-linked targeting, and instant transfers have allowed governments to move from distributing goods to transferring cash directly into bank accounts. The shift is politically transformative.

Cash transfers timed close to elections blur the line between governance and inducement. In recent hearings, the Supreme Court pointedly asked: Why are such schemes announced just ahead of polls? Will indiscriminate benefits, without distinguishing between those who can afford and those who cannot, not amount to an "appeasing policy"? The Court has warned that indiscriminate largesse hampers economic development and diverts resources away from roads, hospitals, and schools. A pending PIL seeks regulation of such promises, arguing that "irrational freebies" may distort the level playing field and even violate constitutional provisions governing public funds.

The judiciary is cautious about stepping into political territory, but its anguish is visible. Rights-based entitlements such as food security, rural employment guarantee (now diluted), primary education, and public health are constitutional commitments. Targeted support for the poor is morally

defensible and economically sound. The real issue is something else. It is the slippery slope and the steady transformation of voters into "beneficiaries". The language itself has shifted. Citizens with rights have become recipients of State generosity. It is worth reminding that freebie resources are drawn from taxes collected from the same citizens, or from deficits and debt their children will repay.

In the freebie race, to retain political advantage, payouts have been escalating. What began as targeted support is becoming quasi-universal entitlement. The 2017 Economic Survey had floated the idea of Universal Basic Income as a rational consolidation of subsidies. Instead, we are drifting into fragmented, election-driven quasi-UBI, layered on top of existing schemes, with duplication or overlaps, and without fiscal consolidation.

Resultantly, revenue deficits have widened. Capital expenditure has to be cut. States borrow to fund current consumption, violating a "golden rule" of public finance – borrowing should finance investment, not recurring consumption.

The Supreme Court's recent remarks capture the anxiety: "Even if you are revenue-surplus, isn't it your obligation to spend that amount on development—roads, hospitals, schools?" When forests are monetised to fund revenue expenditure, we cross from imprudence to peril.

The phenomenon may not be unique to India. Latin America has seen debt crises triggered by unchecked subsidies. Advanced economies face entitlement pressures as populations age. But what is different in India is the combination of scale, technology, development needs, and demography. We are not a saturated welfare State. We are still building basic infrastructure, including human capital. Every rupee spent on indiscriminate giveaways is a rupee denied to irrigation, railways, climate adaptation, urban drainage, or to education, skilling, and primary health.

Welfare vs appeasement

There is also a cultural cost. The Court has asked bluntly whether such schemes risk weakening work incentives. That concern should not be caricatured. Poor citizens are not lazy. Inflation, the cost of living, and unaffordable services are real concerns. However, when electorally driven benefits expand rapidly without fiscal backing, the signal shifts from empowerment to appeasement. Are voters becoming addicted to the freebie opium? Or are they so cynical about governance that they prefer immediate cash to long-term promises of infrastructure? Reversing this race to the bottom requires political courage and institutional reform.

First, fiscal transparency must be mandatory. Every manifesto promise should be accompanied by a publicly disclosed costing and funding source, whether taxes or borrowing. Second, adopt the golden rule formally: borrow only for capital expenditure, not for revenue giveaways. Third, empower an independent council to publish pre-election fiscal impact assessments of major promises and describe the trade-offs. Fourth, distinguish clearly between rights-based welfare (food, health, education, social protection for the poorest) and electoral inducements timed for political gain. Finally, voters must reclaim their role as citizens. Infrastructure decay, polluted rivers, failing schools, and now felled forests are not disconnected from freebie politics. They are its consequence.

A democracy that is cutting down forests for votes risks mortgaging its ecological future for an electoral present. Welfare is essential. Appeasement is corrosive. The difference lies in fiscal discipline, transparency, and respect for citizens, who are owners of the republic, not beneficiaries. If we do not draw that line now, next year's burden will demand another forest.

(The writer is an economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Checking in with the stars

Often, we swapped shifts or spent extra hours at the desk to welcome a celebrity

RAMESHINDER SINGH SANDHU

Many perks sit by your side while you work with one of the luxury hotels. Meeting celebrities hailing from various fields is one of them. Thankfully, my mind is etched with scores of such memories, birthed at the front desk more than a decade ago.

Joy erupted the moment my colleagues and I would learn about their arrival – usually in meetings, where our manager would discuss plans for their stay, fixing duties and responsibilities and even certain dos and don'ts. Often, we would swap our shifts or spend extra hours to personally welcome a certain famous person, in most cases, a singer, actor or cricketer. At times, their reservation would also get cancelled or postponed at the last moment.

Most surprising was when some of them exceeded our expectations right with their arrival. Singer Kailash Kher's check-in scene is one of them; he commenced singing his very popular *Teri Deewani* as I praised his melodious voice, despite seeming tired. It was a treat for everyone around, including a large group from Japan, which was waiting for the check-in. Once, actor Pankaj Kapoor arrived in the middle of the night with his family, including his son Shahid Kapoor. They behaved so ordinary. "We are vegetarians, and I hope your chefs will make dosa and idli for breakfast," the senior Kapoor said, smiling. As I guided them to their room, taking the lift, they opened up about their tiring air journey.

There were also those with whom I was very candid. "I was flying abroad for my higher studies when I saw your *Rang De Basanti* movie. Scenes of my hometown Amritsar watered my eyes," I told Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, the film's director. "I never thought that one day I would meet you personally, and I am also into writing," I said to author Ruskin Bond, whose stories dominated our school syllabus. "You were the chief guest at our school's founder's day, and I met you for a brief moment while representing the photography exhibition," I told former Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh.

Unpleasant scenes also cropped up, like when actress Kareena Kapoor checked in while a large wedding group was also checking in. They surrounded her like honeybees, but the security team instantly played its role. One day as Punjabi singer Gurdas Mann and his wife turned up without any prior reservation, the two South Indian staff members failed to recognise them, but thankfully one of them rang the room reservations where I was working that afternoon.

"There's a guest called Gurdas Mann, who wants to book a suite. We can't take a walk-in, right?" "Is it the singer Gurdas Mann?" I asked curiously. "I don't know about that," he conveyed. To be sure, I looked out of the little glass window and ended up laying my eyes on the famous couple. I rushed out, apologised for the wait and took them straight to the suite, where I completed the check-in formalities. I still remember I was a bit sad that day, but their arrival had cheered me up, but I also felt embarrassed that our staff had failed to recognise them, and that, in Amritsar. But they did enjoy their stay with us and left with beautiful remarks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Educate 'we the people'

Apropos 'From 'we the people' to knowing the Constitution' (Mar 3), the article highlights the need to spread constitutional literacy among 'we the people'. The founding fathers faced a Herculean task unifying diverse princely states and provinces, safeguarding citizens' rights. The Constitution is a living document, with 106 amendments and landmark judgments, but its language remains a hurdle for most Indians. The government must take measures to educate 'we the people' on India's Constitution, strengthening democracy. More importantly, it should be made mandatory for all elected representatives to study the Constitution and revise it periodically.

M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Ban no solution

This refers to 'Digital curfews: Mentor, don't ban' (Mar 3). Banning social media for minors isn't the solution; guidance and digital literacy are key. Parents, schools, and policymakers should mentor children to use technology wisely, focusing on education and awareness rather than blanket bans.

Jiya Kumari, Bengaluru

India must mediate

The escalating conflict involving US/Israel strikes on Iran, Iran's retaliation, and the killing of Ayatollah Khamenei has raised the risk of a wider regional war. India is uniquely positioned to mediate the conflict, given its ties with all parties. Rather than remaining silent, India should advocate for an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian aid, and de-escalation. This would reinforce India's global standing as a responsible power. The escalating conflict has raised the risk of a wider regional war. Protecting national interests while promoting peace is key.

Anand Mestru, Kalaburagi

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

(CM Nitish Kumar's son) Nishant Kumar is a young and hardworking leader and he should also step into politics.

Sanjay Saraogi, Bihar BJP President

In a democracy, dynasty politics is wrong. We need to free the state and nation from it.

Narendra Modi (March 2014)

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Special laws, missing proof

The excise policy ruling exposes how sweeping powers to arrest, without ample evidence, can fail judicial scrutiny

KUMAR KARTIKEYA

On February 27, a Delhi Court discharged Delhi's former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and 22 others in the Delhi excise policy case. This is not merely about the fate of certain political and business figures. It is about the manner in which special criminal laws are invoked, how arrests are timed, and how executive power curtails liberty.

For nearly two years, the scam dominated headlines. Raids were conducted, arrests were televised, and the narrative of a grand conspiracy was asserted with confidence. However, when the matter reached judicial scrutiny, the court was unconvinced that a *prima facie* case existed to proceed to trial against the principal accused. Discharge at that stage is not an acquittal after trial, but it is a judicial finding that the material placed by the prosecution does not even justify putting a person through the rigours of a criminal trial.

Significantly, the court made it clear that criminal liability cannot be inferred from the office a person holds or from suspicion alone. In relation to the Chief Minister, the court recorded that no contemporaneous document, no file noting, no electronic communication, and no financial trail was produced to connect him with any alleged manipulation of the policy or illegal gratification.

That is a categorical rejection of the prosecution's central argument. The judgment also found that even the prosecution's own approver, who claimed knowledge of events from policy formulation to alleged utilisation of funds, did not attribute any role to him. The only direct assertion linking him to the alleged conspiracy rested on an uncorroborated accomplice-like statement. The court reiterated the settled principle: one accomplice cannot corroborate another, and without independent corroboration, such material cannot sustain even the threshold for a charge. Importantly, the court rejected the broader premise that the policy itself was the product of a clandestine design.

One must remember what preceded this discharge. Kejriwal was first arrested by the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). While his challenge to that arrest was pending, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested him in relation to the predicate offence. The timing raised eyebrows. When the matter came up before the Supreme Court of India, the bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan granted bail. Justice Bhuyan recorded serious reservations about the timing of the arrest, noting that the CBI had not felt it necessary to take him into custody for over 22 months. When a constitutional court questions whether an arrest was intended to frustrate an earlier grant of bail, the issue becomes a question of institutional propriety and fairness.

Arrests without conviction

The excise policy case is a lens through which we must re-examine the working of the PMLA. Section 45 of the Act imposes the twin conditions for bail. An accused must satisfy the court that there are reasonable grounds to believe he is not guilty and that he is unlikely to commit an offence while on bail. In practice, this reverses the ordinary presumption of innocence at the stage of bail. The burden shifts heavily onto the accused, even before the trial begins.

Statistics on PMLA prosecutions also show how the courts have rejected the agency's story in the majority of cases. There has been a sharp rise in registered cases and arrests, while convictions remain comparatively few. This imbalance between the power to arrest and the ability to secure convictions should concern anyone committed to the rule of law.

The discharge of Kejriwal and others, therefore, marks an important moment. It demonstrates that trial courts are prepared to scrutinise prosecution material rigorously and to insist that conspiracy be proved through material, not inferred through assumption. It reinforces a simple but powerful principle: criminal law cannot be invoked to convert a policy disagreement into a prosecution, unless the statutory ingredients of an offence are clearly disclosed.

The larger question now is legislative. The PMLA was conceived as a specialised statute targeting serious economic crime. If its provisions are being invoked in politically charged contexts with sweeping arrests and prolonged pre-trial attests, Parliament must revisit the balance between enforcement and liberty. If Parliament does not act, the burden will fall upon the higher judiciary to harmonise the statute with constitutional principles.

The judgment is a reminder that courts remain the final sentinel on the *qui vive*. In the enduring tension between power and liberty, it is the discipline of proof, not the volume of allegation, that must prevail.

(The writer is an advocate at the Supreme Court of India)

Dousing the spark of free enquiry on India's campuses

JANAKI NAIR

In 2024, the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in Karnataka raised its objections to the 'tweaking' of a purported quote from the state's poet laureate, Kuvempu, emblazoned on the entrance to residential government schools. The change exhorted students to 'question everything' (*dhairyavagi prashnisi*), while the original had asked students to enter the temple of learning respectfully, 'with folded hands' (*Jnana Degulavidu, kai mugidu olage ba)*. This was instantly declared as one more example of the newly elected Congress' anti-Hindu stance. As the literary critic S G Siddaramaiah immediately pointed out, Kuvempu had used no such words in his original poem *Pakshikashi*, but the change was definitely warranted in our times.

Perhaps today the commandment at places of learning should be 'Thou Shalt Not Know'. When the formidable power of the judiciary was used to defend the Indian court system against calumny in the Standard VIII NCERT textbook, it was asserting this commandment. Students should not know of the grinding delays of the courts. A judge who speedily exonerated himself from sexual harassment (Justice Ranjan Gogoi) and another who 'burnt notes' in his Delhi home (Justice Varma) could prejudice tender minds. However, minds are never too tender to know what the State today mandates: that 'the evil that men do lives after them' while 'the good is oft interred with their bones'. Thus, Moghul rule is now painted as unadorned tyranny; 'Partition Horrors', emphasising the role of some villains, will be taught from Standard VII.

There was a more violent insistence on 'Thou Shall Not Know' at Azim Premji University this past week. And here, it was the ABVP that was the self-appointed custodian. If Kashmir was dropped from the Delhi University syllabus in May 2025 since 'Kashmir is resolved' (sic), what purpose is served in revisiting the heinous crimes of Kunan Poshpora, 1991? Fidelity to Shakespeare be damned: the evil of some men, especially when they are from our armed forces, must be interred with their bones. But it was the alacrity with which the administration turned on its own students and the Spark Reading Circle at APU that are alarming signs of what infects cultures of teaching and learning today. By filing an FIR against its own students, the APU administration buttressed the cause of the vandals in disallowing discussion on violence against women in Kashmir.

Turning universities into sites of worship rather than places of enquiry and learning was pioneered by the JNU administration. Since 2016, it has been at war with its own students and teachers, ruling by decision rather than consultative norm building. The previous vice-chancellor, M Jagadeesh Kumar, engaged with the symbolics of 'occupation' throughout his tenure. He mounted, in 2017, a Wall of Heroes to 21 decorated soldiers, making JNU the first university to comply with the Ministry of Human Resources and Development's (MHRD) 'Vidya Veerta Abhiyan'. In the name of restoring purportedly 'defaced' walls, he wiped clean JNU's magnificent mural art. And in response to the illuminating discussions on nationalism that JNU teachers mounted in the turbulent months after February 2016, Kumar asked for a tank to be rolled on to the campus to 'instil' nationalism.

Instead, an orange-robed Vivekananda statue was unveiled in 2020. A statue may not have the looming bulk of a tank, but it serves several purposes – planting a flag in 'enemy' territory and sacralising it. This was followed up by a statue of Vidyaranya on the campus, unveiled with due attention to its 'sanctity' by the current vice-chancellor, Santishree Pandit, and a representative of the Sringeri Matha.

One more statue to Shivaji is promised at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Centre for Security & Strategic Studies in the School of International Studies, which will draw lessons from his era to understand the 'concept of Akhand Bharat' and his 'struggle for Hindavi Swaraj' (sic). This physical occupation is accompanied by aggressive renaming, surveilling, and patrolling the kinds of knowledges to which students may be exposed.

But last week, the VC was emboldened enough to bare the hopes of the upper castes when she scoffed at the self-inflicted 'victimhood' of Dalits (and Blacks). JNU students had, since 1975, uniquely instituted well-conceived 'deprivation points' to ensure the diversity of their student body. The UGC guidelines would have protected such students from harm and continued discrimination. But those students who demanded justice have been rewarded with detention and FIRs.

The public university was not meant to be a mere department of the State. There was a founding commitment to autonomy, as defined in the report of the Radhakrishnan Committee (1948). 'We must resist, in the interests of our own democracy, the trend towards the governmental domination of the educational process. Higher education is, undoubtedly, an obligation of the State, but State aid is not to be confused with State control over academic policies and practices. Intellectual progress demands the maintenance of the spirit of free inquiry.'

This was written at a time when the 'private university' was an oxymoron, not even a distant possibility. But even the initial promise of a private university such as APU – as nurturing what the public university can no longer ensure, a space for open teaching-learning – now lies battered. And this time, the assault from within has matched the illegitimate attack from without.

(The writer is a retired professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Washington's strategy overlooks the depth of Iran's ideological State and underestimates the risks of yet another Middle East misadventure

A banner of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is seen next to a building damaged by an Israeli strike in the southern suburbs of Beirut on Tuesday. The war launched by the US and Israel against Iran spread across the Middle East, threatening to plunge the global economy into chaos, with Lebanon and Gulf energy exporters dragged into the conflict. AFP

Trump in Tehran's theatre of 'unknown unknowns'

M K BHADRAKUMAR

In the run-up to the United States invasion of Iraq in 2003, Donald Rumsfeld, then US defence secretary under President George W Bush, highlighted the categorisation of the matrix of knowledge and intelligence in a war. The 'known known', Rumsfeld said, are things we know; 'known unknowns' are things we know we don't know; and, 'unknown unknowns' are things we do not know that we don't know.

US President Donald Trump is operating in Iran almost entirely in the matrix of the 'known known' — and occasionally vetting his toes in an odd 'known unknown' — but is blank when it comes to the treacherous eddies of 'unknown unknown.' This was also the fatal flaw of Bush's war that eventually turned out to be the nemesis of US power two decades ago, culminating in an ignominious end to its occupation and exit from Iraq ordered by the parliament in Baghdad.

The mystique of the 'unknown unknown' should never be underestimated. The nadir was reached in Iraq when the Bush administration installed its favourite proxy, Ahmed Chalabi, as the president of the Governing Council (prime minister) after overthrowing Saddam Hussein, but only to realise belatedly that he worked both sides of the street and was an Iranian agent.

Simply put, it became difficult to segregate the friend from the enemy and vice versa as the US got entangled in an attrition war that cost hundreds of thousands of lives and trillions of dollars.

Trump's stated objectives to force a 'regime change' in Iran are a bunch of variables — the liberation of the nation from the repressive *Velayat-e Faqih* (Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist) system of governance; vanquishing a regime sponsoring terrorism, with a covert nuclear programme and a growing missile programme. Of late, Trump has repeatedly framed the conflict as essential to US national security, arguing that allowing Iran to strengthen militarily would endanger American lives and allies in the region. The lodestar is regime change.

Trump's 'known unknown'

The West's understanding of how the Shia concept of *Velayat-e Faqih* works in actual practices as a system of governance is below par and permeated with religious, self-serving political prejudices. In reality, Iran has a fractious political system, which is endemic to Shia politics, but in the final analysis, they accept the top religious jurists (*Faqih*) as guardians over the State.

Trump claims he has shortlisted three names to head a new regime in Tehran. Here, Trump is blithely entering the realm of the 'known unknown'. Basically, he counts on the Israeli assessment predicated on a popular uprising in the wake of the power vacuum at the leadership level with the assassination of Ayatollah Khamenei.

Praetorian guards of the regime

However, things are moving in an entirely different direction. There isn't going to be an insurrection in Iran. This is for three or four reasons. First, while years of economic decline as a result of US sanctions may have fuelled growing public dissent against the clerical system (which is also fuelled by the covert operations of Western intelligence and Israel), there is no coordinated challenge under a unified leadership. Trump and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu do not understand that the Iranian opposition is seriously hobbled by its disunity.

Second, the spectre of an insurrection leading to the collapse of the State structure and anarchical conditions (as in Iraq, Syria, Libya or Lebanon) haunts the Iranian people. People put primacy on security and stability. Trump and Netanyahu hold no appeal to the Iranian on the street.

Bad news and body bags

Trump sounded as if he's preparing the American public for some real bad news as the body bags start arriving. To be sure, American opinion militates against another Middle Eastern war.

Yet, Trump sounded sanguine while speaking to *ABC News* that "it's [air strike] done such damage already. It's like, they [Iranians] are incapacitated."

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) was originally created by Khomeini in 1979 to function as a crucial internal security apparatus. It has since acquired an expanded social, political, military, and economic role with an estimated 200,000-strong fighting force. The IRGC also controls the Basij (Organisation for Mobilisation of the Oppressed), which is a major paramilitary volunteer force numbering around one million. The Basij serves *de facto* as a massive reserve volunteer force to bolster regime security, acting as the 'eyes and ears' of the regime, protecting it from both internal and external enemies.

The Basij is deeply rooted in the ideology of 'Khomeinism', Shia Islamism, jihadism, Mahdism, pan-Islamism, social conservatism, anti-Zionism, anti-anarchism, etc. So long as this massive security architecture indoctrinated in a radical ideology does not splinter, the regime's writ will run large in the country, and the concept of justice, fairness and resistance will give ballast to the latent springs of Iranian nationalism. The 22 million people who gathered voluntarily to celebrate the anniversary of the revolution recently testify to the vast social base of the regime.

The clock is ticking

Nonetheless, Trump exhorted the Iranian people: "When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be, probably, your only chance for generations. For many years, you have asked for America's help, but you never got it. No president was willing to do what I am willing to do tonight. Now you have a president who is giving you what you want. So let's see how you respond." It is a plaintive cry in the void.

Trump is on a learning curve. The lesson of Iraq and Afghanistan is that regime change is the easy part, but what follows thereafter is completely unpredictable, once the 'unknown unknown' begins to surface. The clock is ticking. Make no mistake that Iranians will not forgive or forget the cold-blooded murder of Ayatollah Khamenei. President Masoud Pezeshkian, who is a non-cleric and a moderate reformer, called Khamenei's killing a "declaration of war against Muslims".

"Iran considers it its legitimate duty and right to avenge the perpetrators," Pezeshkian said. Even Ali Larijani, the powerful head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (whom the US regard as open to their influence) warned, "Today we will hit them with a force that they have never experienced before".

Khamenei's successor

Where the US-Israeli calculation is going horribly wrong is about the institutional resilience built into Iran's clerical system when it comes to an orderly succession to the mantle of the Supreme Leader. Evidently, core pillars such as the IRGC remain intact and operational, providing continuity and a firewall to allow the 88-member Assembly of Experts, the deliberative body empowered to appoint, supervise, and discharge the Supreme Leader — somewhat like the College of Cardinals in the Vatican to elect a new Pope. To my mind, the choice of the Assembly of Experts narrows down to two figures.

There will be an animated discussion within the Assembly of Experts behind the scenes between the two main contenders, Mojtaba Khamenei (son of Ayatollah Khamenei) and Ayatollah Ali Khomeini (grandson of Imam Khomeini.) To my mind, the mantle of the Supreme Leader may well fall on Ayatollah Ali Khomeini, who has an impeccable Islamist pedigree and enjoys the reputation of being a highly astute and effective politician.

(The writer is a former diplomat)

Love, law and the politics of consent

SATISH JHA

Barely two months before the Gujarat government tabled controversial amendments to marriage registration rules in the state Assembly—including parental nod—three women, two of them celebrities, came under severe attack for marrying outside their caste.

These women, from the Brahmin and Patidar communities, faced protests for choosing inter-caste marriages. In the case of the two celebrities, community leaders organised protests and called for their social boycott. The outrage went further: leaders met state ministers to demand a law prohibiting such marriages without parental consent.

These episodes highlight the social fault lines confronting individuals who make independent choices. But the proposed amendments to the Registration of Marriages Act, 2006, are widely seen as a response to sustained pressure from a large number of communities. These communities—key vote banks for the ruling BJP, opposition Congress, and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alike—enjoy political backing across party lines. According to political observers, vote bank politics explain the muted opposition. The Congress has remained silent; AAP leaders have openly supported the proposal. While sections of the intelligentsia have criticised the move on social media, the BJP government's move appears to command considerable support on the ground.

"These are changes communities across the state have been demanding. No political party can afford to upset them—Patidar, Thakor, Chaudhary, and Brahmin—all have been seeking such rules," a senior Congress leader from Saurashtra told *DH*, requesting anonymity.

In recent years, several inter-caste marriages have faced violent opposition.

One of the most chilling cases occurred last year in Banaskantha district, where 18-year-old Chandrika Patel was allegedly murdered by her father, uncle, and cousin over her relationship with a boy from another community. She had cleared the NEET exam and secured admission to a government medical college.

Two years ago, 17 families from the Nai caste were forced to leave their village in the Aravalli district following an inter-caste marriage. The groom, a Patel, married against community wishes. Community leaders from both sides pressured the couple to get a divorce, but when they refused, leaders from the Patel community allegedly pressured the Ni families to shut their barber shops and other businesses and leave the village.

Similarly, months before the state government announced the proposal, rallies and gatherings of different communities were conducted across the state demanding laws against inter-caste and interfaith love marriages. Local dailies and social media were rife with references to *bhagedu prem lagna*–runaway love marriages.

On August 30, 2025, a Jan Kranti Maha Rally in Mehsana saw participation from dominant Patidar and Thakor groups, seeking laws against marriages without parental consent. These gatherings and demands were supported by all parties.

Caste rallies are common in Gujarat, where community leaders not only pass resolutions to curb social evils like alcohol consumption, dowry, and extravagant weddings but also issue diktats against inter-caste and inter-faith marriages. And such rallies have support from their political representatives.

In 2021, ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections, the Gujarat government enacted a controversial law targeting interfaith marriages, framed as a measure to curb 'love jihad'. The government argued the law sought to prevent religious conversion through "force, allurement, fraudulent means, or by marriage".

The High Court stayed the controversial section of the law, stating that it interfered with "the intricacies of marriage, including the right to an individual's choice", thereby infringing Article 21 of the Constitution.

Similarly, the state government has proposed a number of changes in the Gujarat Marriage Registration Act 2006 ahead of crucial local body polls slated to be held in the next couple of months and the assembly election next year. The rules that mandate parental nod by submitting a declaration stating that their parents have been informed. The draft rules require couples to submit documents of their parents' identity and residence and contact numbers. Another change proposed concerns assistant registrars, who will have to notify the parents in 10 days after receiving the application.

On Thursday, advocate Bandish Soparkar filed detailed objections, calling the amendments "*prima facie* bad, illegal, and invalid in as much as they are violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 –often described as the Constitution's 'golden triangle' safeguarding equality, freedom and the right to life and liberty. On the most controversial part of the changes that include parental consent, he has said it goes beyond the scope of the parent act of Gujarat Registration of Marriages Act, 2006.

DHNS

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MARCH 1976

Family planning drive gains momentum

New Delhi, March 3
The State governments are earnestly responding in a big way to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's call to initiate measures to spur the people into accepting the norm of small families through planned parenthood and to improve the quality of life. The family planning movement is gaining momentum along with the speedy implementation of the 20-point economic programme, judged from reports received from Samachar correspondents in the State capitals.

25 YEARS AGO: MARCH 2001

Taliban demolish head and legs of Buddha statues

Kabul, March 3 (AP, Reuters)
Hardline Taliban soldiers demolished the head and legs of the world-famous ancient statues of Buddha in central Afghanistan, defying international pleas to protect the priceless historical treasures; a Taliban official said today. "The head and legs of Buddha statues in Bamiyan were destroyed yesterday," the Taliban's Information Minister Quadratullah Jamal told the Associated Press. "Our soldiers are working hard to demolish their remaining parts. They will come down soon," he said.

OASIS | CHANDER GUPTA

Eradicating impurities

When I was a school student, teachers taught us that water was not a conductor of electricity. While at home we were warned that water gave powerful shock if it came in contact with electric current. Elders at home cautioned kids not to touch electrical switches and gadgets with wet hands. As kids we were confused by this dichotomy between the teaching at school and instruction at home. Growing up, we realised that both - teachers at school and elders at home - were correct.

On the assumption of its purity, science tells that water does not conduct electricity. Pure water acts as an insulator because it lacks free ions to carry electrical charge. Containing dissolved minerals and salts, tap water at home can however conduct electricity due to the presence of these ions. Our elders at home have this tap water with impurities in mind.

Water is a major ingredient of human body. For good health, we have to keep our bodies properly hydrated by drinking enough water. Water is curative for human beings as it flushes out toxins from our bodies. Drinking plenty of water is even recommended by doctors. But the same water, if it is contaminated with impurities, can cause so many diseases. Consumption of contaminated water makes people unhealthy. Water, if it is pure, is nectar for our health. On the other hand, if it is impure, water can be toxic for bodies.

Taking the analogy of water, we all are pure souls at the time of our birth. Nobody is born evil. By default, we are pure. But over time, we humans pick up the world's bad traits. We become cunning, greedy, jealous, and rude. We just have to identify and eradicate the impurities that have seeped into us through worldly living. Every child is born as a pure soul.

No sooner a child is born, many identities are at once tagged unknown to the baby - national identity, racial identity, ethnic identity, caste identity etc. Prejudices are attached with identities. As a child grows it becomes conscious of own identity and starts looking at others in terms of their identities. Purity is compromised since birth itself.

The process of growing up fills us all with varying degrees of impurities – anger, frustration, impatience, intolerance, jealousy, stress etc. We become like contaminated water. Restore your purity.

'High risk to human life': Leaders flag 'illegal' nod to Char Dham road works

Oppose Netala bypass, felling of 7,000 deodar trees in eco-sensitive zone

M MJoshi

Karan Singh

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Veteran leaders Murli Manohar Joshi and Karan Singh have written to three top cabinet ministers seeking cancellation of the approvals granted for two key segments of the Char Dham project, noting that the clearances are "illegal and untenable" and will "significantly increase the risk to human life and downstream settlements."

Flagging the fragile nature of the Himalayas, the senior leaders wrote to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, and the director general of the Border Roads Organisation on the grave ecological threats posed by the construction of the Netala bypass and the felling of nearly 7,000 trees in a Deodar forest in the Jhala-Jangla stretch of the project.

"The forest clearance for the Netala bypass is illegal as it runs contrary to the directions of the Supreme Court that granted only a conditional approval to Char Dham works, strictly subject to adherence to the recommendations of the High-Powered Committee," they wrote in a letter to the ministers sent last week.

The high-powered committee, they said, recommended the cancellation of the Netala bypass, considering its non-feasibility.

Joshi and Singh, together with other activists, urged the ministers to cancel both clearances and carry out a cumulative environmental and disaster risk assessment of the projects being undertaken in the Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone.

The approval for tree felling in the Jhala-Jangla stretch, they said, was "alarming and unlawful" because the forest stands on loose debris and unstable geological material in the same area where the recent Dharali disaster took place.

"Any form of disturbance—whether felling, uprooting, or even so-called 'transplantation' of trees—will inevitably destabilise the slope, alter hydrology, and significantly increase the risk to human life and downstream settlements," they wrote.

The two road construction projects—both are part of the overall Char Dham program—received "in-principle" approval from the Uttarakhand forest department last year.

2 Andhra officials suspended over Kakinada firecracker blast

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Andhra Pradesh government has suspended two senior Kakinada district officials for alleged negligence in last Saturday's explosion at a firecracker unit in Vetlapalem. The death toll has climbed to 22 after two injured victims succumbed.

A preliminary inquiry prompted action against Peddapuram RDO K Sri Ramani and BS M Valli, Kakinada Deputy Commissioner of Labour and Rajamahendravaram Assistant Labour Commissioner, for failing to enforce safety measures and oversight. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu first announced the suspension of four officials, followed by this probe.

The orders issued on Monday evening noted that Ramani ignored safety protocols at Suryashree Fireworks in Vetlapalem, while Valli neglected worker record-keeping, insurance coverage and inspections. Revenue Principal Secretary G Sai Prasad and Labour Secretary M V Sesagiri Babu issued directives barring them from leaving headquarters without permission.

Fireworks production had run for years at the Vetlapalem unit, with workers making firecrackers when blasts struck around 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Profession reference not caste insult: Allahabad HC

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In a significant ruling, the Allahabad High Court has said that merely addressing someone by his profession does not attract the SC/ST Act unless it is proved that such words were used deliberately with the intention to humiliate the person, if the person belongs to that community.

A single bench comprising Justice Anil Kumar-X gave the ruling on a criminal appeal challenging a summoning order issued by a special SC/ST court in Gautam Budh Nagar district in 2024 in a case pertaining to a wage dispute between a domestic worker and her employer.

The SC/ST court had summoned the petitioner under provisions of the SC/ST Act along with Sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC.

The complainant had contended that she used to wash the petitioner's clothes and that he 'abused' her and addressed her by her caste when she asked for payment of her wages.

The High Court found that the petitioner had addressed the complainant as 'dhoban' (washerwoman). It noted that a contractual relationship existed between the complainant and the petitioner.

The court observed that calling someone by his or her profession would not attract the provisions of the SC/ST Act unless it was established that such words were used with the intention to humiliate the person concerned on account of caste.

The court partially allowed the criminal appeal and quashed the summoning order to the extent it related to the SC/ST Act. It said that proceedings under the other Sections of the IPC would continue before the trial court.

Manipur CM flags off National Integration Tour with Meitei, Kuki participants

GUWAHATI, DHNS: As part of efforts to bridge the trust deficit among communities, Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Tuesday flagged off a "National Integration Tour" for 24 youths belonging to Meitei, Kuki, Naga and Meitei Pangal communities.

The 10-day-long tour is being organised by Assam Rifles, the country's oldest paramilitary force, deployed in the conflict-torn state. The tour, which will cover Thiruvananthapuram, Kanyakumari, Mumbai and Kolkata, between March 3 and 13, was flagged off from the 33 Assam Rifles sector 9 headquarters at Keithelmanbi in Imphal.

Talking about the conflict involving the Meitei and the Kuki communities since May 2023, the chief minister said that despite the differences, elders should not spoil the future of the children. "We should forgive and forget the past and jointly head towards bringing peace and development in the state," he said.

Singh stated that during the crisis in the state, more than 47,000 people belonging to both the Meitei and Kuki communities were relocated to safer zones by the Assam Rifles to ensure their security and well-being.

The chief minister also commended the prompt and dedicated actions of the paramilitary force in carrying out the relocation process during the crisis, said an official statement.

In a symbolic gesture of unity and inclusiveness, a group was formed comprising one member from each community, and a flag was handed over to them to represent collective harmony and shared identity. CM Singh interacted with the youths of the four communities, it said.

Since assuming the charge of chief minister on February 4, Singh has been trying several ways to reach out to the Meitei and the Kuki communities to bridge the trust and restore peace and transportation.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

YOU LOOK PRETTY BUSY OVER THERE, ALEX
YEAH, I'M TRYING TO FINISH MY BOOK REPORT
WHEN'S IT DUE?
YESTERDAY
A LITTLE LATE, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH, BUT IT'S A BOOK ABOUT PROCRASTINATION, SO I'M HOPING MY TEACHER WILL APPRECIATE THE IRONY

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

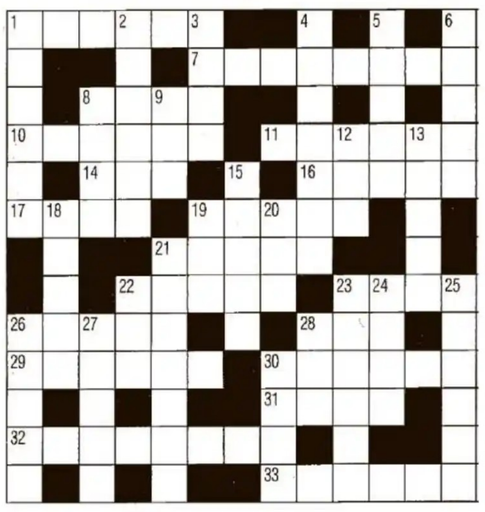
Peanuts

EUDORA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THERE'S NO SCHOOL ON SATURDAY!
THERE ISN'T? THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING...
SATURDAY'S THE ONLY DAY I NEVER GET ANYTHING WRONG
I WONDER IF IT'S TOO LATE TO BECOME A DISCO...

Marvin

ISN'T THAT YOUR MOM?
WHAT? NO! UH... I DON'T KNOW THAT PERSON! MUST BE A TEACHER!
YOU FORGOT YOUR GOODBYE HUG, MARVIN!
MAN, THE TEACHERS HERE HAVE SERIOUS BOUNDARY ISSUES!

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12366



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Fail to counterfeit a letter (6)
7 In credit, in a roundabout way (8)
8 British animal? (4)
10 Hurtfully forming one figure in moulded clay (6)
11 Outcome sure to upset an officer (6)
14 Like the coloured end (3)
16 Miss Lee, the tea girl (5)
17 Were in jug (4)
19 She may take one in hand (5)
21 Like a slab forming a foundation (5)
22 Birdlike fieldsman? (5)
23 A possible entrapment in time share? (4)
26 Show pride in conscientious truthfulness (5)
28 Arrange to get information on location (3)
29 Opportunity to get a Chinese with some rice? (6)
30 One of a handy bunch? (6)
31 Was it split in great ominousness? (4)
32 How to cry over spilt beer (8)
33 Bird with only one little sister for relatives! (6)

DOWN
1 Something grand to finish with (6)
2 Snakelike aircraft? (6)
3 A nameless fate meaning very little (4)
4 Free with one's political views? (7)
5 Like Aphrodite, she'll have a bit of love before sunrise (5)
6 Lay down a condition (5)
8 You may have spent them in Italy (4)
9 Like some far-off schooldays (3)
12 Alias Sol, note (3)
13 There are 54 ways to live them! (5)
15 A passage from Paisley (5)
18 The value of an Isle on the Thames (5)
19 Lad brought up on Indian food (3)
20 Any way that's negative (3)
21 Is his hook worth a look? (7)
22 One anticipates jumping it (3)
23 Little ones may have no rims (6)
24 A chance to pass on what you've learned (4)
25 Whence to come down to earth in port (6)
26 South Island style of diving! (5)
27 Bright boy put out of the race, so peevish (5)
28 Overweight and maybe apt to splutter? (3)
30 As for loading horses? (4)

ACROSS
1 Eraser (6)
7 Large passenger plane (8)
8 Metallic element (4)
10 Private evening party (6)
11 Ingenious (6)
14 Place (3)
16 Stone worker (5)
17 Nearly all (4)
19 Jockey (5)
21 Bird (5)
22 Magic servant (5)
23 Price (4)
26 Girl's name (5)
28 Heavy-hearted (3)
29 Comes about (6)
30 Severe food shortage (6)
31 Prayer ending (4)
32 News report (8)
33 Pointed tuftlike beard (6)

DOWN
1 Kidnapper's payment (6)
2 Lebanese capital (6)
3 Run against others (4)
4 Egg white (7)
5 Insects (5)
6 Clean feathers (5)
8 Fastening devices (4)
9 Ensnare (3)
12 Drinks counter (3)
13 Water lily (5)
15 Furious (5)
18 Happen (5)
19 Managed (3)
20 Scottish river (3)
21 Goes back on a promise (7)
22 Household fuel (3)
23 Take photos with this (6)
24 Norse god (4)
25 Threefold (6)
26 Brazilian dance (5)
27 Foolish (5)
28 Golf's Mr Torrance (3)
30 Pointed tooth (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12365

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Froth 6, Do-ugh 9, Rub-icon 10, St.-out 11, CLear 12, Deity 13, Heckles 15, (kind)Red 17, Errs 18, Bruise 19, Dukes 20, Driver 22, Beta 24, Sag 25, Scooter 26, Ditch 27, Ski-Ed 28, Hip-Po 29, Men-ti-on 30, Staid 31, Penny.
DOWN: 2, R-ather 3, Trunks 4, Hut 5, Miles 6, Doctors 7, Only 8, G-raves 12, De-m-ur 13, Heads 14, Craig 15, R-I've-t. 16, Deb-ar 18, Beach 19, De-CID-ed 21, Racket 22, B-ovine 23, Ten-pin 25, Scots 26, Demi 28, H-Op.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Marsh 6, Harsh 9, Lexicon 10, Arrow 11, Poach 12, Siren 13, Malaria 15, Ten 17, Eden 18, Future 19, Canal 20, Instil 22, Sect 24, Toe 25, Bemuses 26, Hates 27, Timid 28, Piste 29, Veteran 30, Rebel 31, Deter.
DOWN: 2, Abroad 3, Slogan 4, Hew 5, Tibia 6, Hopeful 7, Anon 8, Soccer 12, Sisal 13, Merit 14, Lease 15, Tunes 16, Newts 18, Fades 19, Citadel 21, Novice 22, Supine 23, Centre 25, Beret 26, Hive 28, Pad.

◆SU-DO-KU-6845◆

	5	2		3			7	
8			9			2		1
3	7		6	1		4		
		8		2	4		9	5
6		1			8			7
	9			5		1	3	

hard

8	9	2	5	3	1	6	7	4
5	4	3	9	6	7	8	1	2
6	1	7	4	8	2	9	3	5
2	7	6	3	5	8	1	4	9
1	5	4	7	2	9	3	8	6
9	3	8	1	4	6	5	2	7
3	6	5	8	7	4	2	9	1
7	2	9	6	1	3	4	5	8
4	8	1	2	9	5	7	6	3

SOLUTION TO 6844

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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								RACK 1
L1	V4	V4	Y4	D2	I1	I1		
								RACK 2
E1	G2	S1	A1	V4	A1	L1	3rd Letter Triple	
								RACK 3
L1	P3	C3	P3	Y4	H4	O1	Double Word Score	
								RACK 4
R1	U1	C3	Q10	T1	A1	I1	Triple Word Score	

PAR SCORE 175-185
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3 O1 T1 O1 R1 E1 D2	RACK 1 =	60
A1 M3 Y4 L1 O1 S1 E1	RACK 2 =	66
Q10 U1 A1 K5 E1 D2	RACK 3 =	60
H4 O1 G2 N1 U1 T1	RACK 4 =	10
PAR SCORE 125-135	JUDD'S TOTAL	196

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

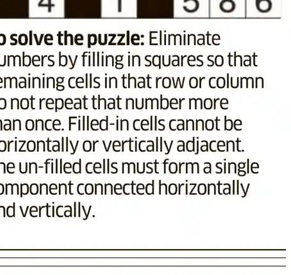
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RCOKO

SPESR

EMRPIR

DUVREO


I think you'll love my use of vegetable stock and a vegan ham bone.
Chef, I only used organic peas and jamón ibérico for the best flavors.
I can taste the quality, Chef! Well done!
8/23
THE CHEF FELT HER VERSION OF SPLIT PEA WAS TRULY ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " ○○○○○ - ○○○○○○ "
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TINGE RERUN GOPHER BITTEN
Answer: They cranked the radio while harvesting root vegetables so they could — "TURNIP" THE "BEET"

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HITORI-3299

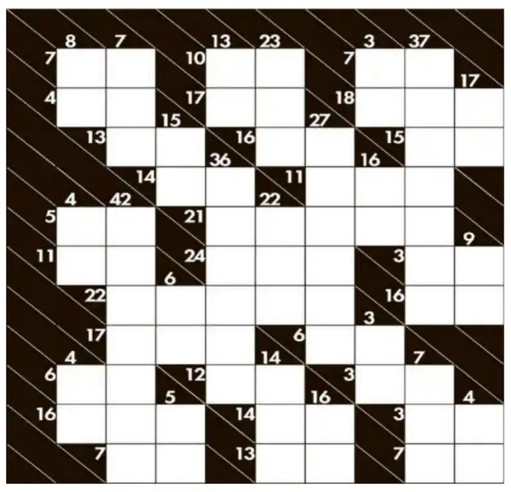
6	8	7	3	2	1	4	4
4	5	4	6	7	8	4	7
5	4	2	1	6	7	3	7
8	7	6	5	3	4	4	1
7	6	4	2	4	1	8	3
4	2	4	8	1	5	6	5
4	3	4	1	8	4	5	6
4	4	8	1	5	6	7	2

SOLUTION TO 3298

5	1	■	2	8	4	■	7
3	■	6	■	7	2	4	5
7	2	1	8	5	■	3	■
1	5	■	6	■	8	7	4
2	■	5	7	1	■	6	■
■	8	7	■	3	6	5	2
6	7	8	5	4	■	2	■
■	4	■	1	■	5	8	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3299



SOLUTION TO 3298

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3845

■	2	6	9					■
	■						■	
		■				■	5	
		8	■		2	9	3	
	9			■				6
		2	■	1	■	7		
				8		■	7	
	■		5			6	4	
3						5		■

SOLUTION TO 3844

3	7	4	9	8	1	5	6	2
5	6	8	3	2	4	7	1	9
1	9	2	7	6	5	8	3	4
6	5	3	8	1	9	2	4	7
8	1	7	6	4	2	9	5	3
4	2	9	5	3	7	6	8	1
9	4	6	2	5	3	1	7	8
2	3	5	1	7	8	4	9	6
7	8	1	4	9	6	3	2	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump denies Israel forced his hand as he lashes Spain, UK over Iran strikes

US President claims 'everything's been knocked out' in Iran

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday lashed out at Britain and Spain for not fully backing his attack on Iran, as he threatened to end "all trade" with Spain, and boasted that "just about everything's been knocked out" in Iran.

"I'm not happy with the UK," Trump said, adding of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer: "This is not Winston Churchill that we're dealing with."

Britain, a steadfast ally of the US throughout the two world wars and in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, decided not to join the assault on Iran that Trump launched with Israel on Saturday.

Starmer said that US fighter jets could use two UK air bases for a "specific and limited defensive purpose" — one in Gloucestershire in western England and the other at the joint UK-US Diego Garcia base in the Indian Ocean.

Starmer said that the US was not authorised to use UK bases in Cyprus, one of which was struck by an Iranian-made drone.

"It's taken three, four days for us to work out where we can land. There would have been much more convenient landing there, as opposed to flying many extra hours," Trump said, in apparent reference to Diego Garcia.

Trump, after a series of flip-flops, has criticised Starmer for agreeing to return the Chagos Islands, where Diego Garcia lies and whose people were expelled by Britain, to Mauritius and instead lease the base.

"I will say the UK has been very, very uncooperative with that stupid island that they have," said Trump, who was speaking next to German Chancellor Friedrich Merz at the White House.

Trump also voiced fury at Spain, where the left-wing government of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has not allowed the US to attack Iran through bases long used by US forces.

"Spain has been terrible," Trump said, adding that he has asked Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to "cut off all dealings with Spain." He also pointed to Sanchez's public refusal to join NATO allies in a pledge to boost defence spending to five percent of GDP, a level pushed by Trump, who says the US bears too much of the burden.

China's HQ-9B Role in Iranian Air Defence Network
It forms the long-range outer layer of Iran's air defence system, alongside Russian S-300PMU-2, Indigenous Bavar-373, Khordad-15, Tor-M2 and other short-range systems.
Range: 260 km
Altitude: 50 km
Iranian Inventory: 4-6 batteries
Launchers: 24-32
Primary role: Protect strategic sites, airbases and critical infrastructure.
Perfomance Under Scrutiny - Recent regional conflicts have placed the HQ-9B under examination.
Key concerns Effectiveness against stealth aircraft ■ Ability to intercept low-flying cruise missiles ■ Resistance to advanced electronic warfare

'Ordered strike on Iran over attack fears'

President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he ordered American forces to join Israel's attack on Iran because he believed Iran was about to strike the United States, his latest explanation amid conflicting accounts from the administration of how the war started, Reuters reports from Washington.

"I might have forced their (Israel's) hand," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office as he met with German Chancellor Merz. "We were having negotiations with these lunatics, and it was my opinion that they were going to attack first. If we didn't do it, they were going to attack first. I felt strongly about that."

Israel sends more troops into Lebanon

BEIRUT, AP/PTI

Israel sent additional troops into southern Lebanon on Tuesday and ordered residents of more than 80 villages to evacuate, as the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group said it is ready for an open war, escalating the already volatile situation in the region.

The latest exchanges began after Hezbollah fired rockets and drones early Monday towards northern Israel. Israel retaliated with a wave of airstrikes that killed 52 people in Lebanon, including a Palestinian militant and a Hezbollah intelligence official in Beirut's southern suburbs. More than 150 people were wounded and tens of thousands displaced.

Hezbollah said on Tuesday morning it fired two salvos of rockets towards northern Israel, while Israeli airstrikes overnight damaged a building housing Hezbollah's TV and radio stations. Beirut's southern suburbs were subjected to a series of strikes early Tuesday afternoon that came without warning, and the Israeli military later said it had targeted Hezbollah officials.

The Israeli military's Arabic spokesman, Avichay Adraee, issued a warning to residents of more than 80 villages and towns, urging them to leave and adding that they should not return until further notice.

A senior Hezbollah official said that, after more than a year of observing a ceasefire while Israel's strikes on Lebanon continued, the group's patience had ended, leaving it with no option "but to return to resistance" and fight an open war with Israel.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun told the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the US, France and Egypt on Tuesday that Hezbollah had been firing rockets from areas north of the Litani River. The Lebanese government says it has disarmed Hezbollah south of the river.

Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike on the southern suburbs of Beirut on Tuesday. AFP

No radioactive contamination detected at nuclear site: Iran

TEHRAN, AFP: Iran said on Tuesday it had detected "no radioactive contamination" as a result of US-Israeli air strikes at the weekend on its underground fuel enrichment facility at Natanz.

"No leak of radioactive material has been recorded at this complex, thanks to preventative measures and data logged by the monitoring system," the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran said in a statement quoted by news agency ISNA.

The underground fuel enrichment site at Natanz was previously targeted by bombings in June during the 12-day war with Israel.

Meanwhile, Russian top diplomat Sergei Lavrov has urged for de-escalation in West Asia war in a call with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Tuesday, Moscow's Foreign Ministry said.

Debris lies scattered in the aftermath of an Israeli and US strike on a police station in Tehran on Tuesday. REUTERS

Netanyahu justifies attack on Iran

JERUSALEM, PTI: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday said that Israel and the US struck Iran because Tehran had restarted its nuclear programme and it would have become "immune within months".

Netanyahu told Fox News early on Tuesday that an attack against Iran was urgently needed because Tehran was building new underground sites to shield its missile and nuclear programmes from attack.

"They started building new sites, new places, underground bunkers that would make their ballistic missile programme and their atomic bomb programme immune within months. If no action was taken now, no action could be taken in the future," he said.

This contrasts with claims made last year by Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump.

Referring to last year's 12-day war in June, the Israeli premier said that after Israel struck Iran's nuclear sites and ballistic missile programme, Tehran began rebuilding in ways that would soon make them untouchable.

Tens of thousands stranded as war disrupts travel

BERLIN, AP/PTI

Tens of thousands of people, from Romanian religious pilgrims to tourists and diplomats' family members, are stranded across West Asia as the Iran war spreads throughout the region.

Major airlines have cancelled flights to and from the region, and airspace across the Gulf is closed. Some of those stranded have been forced to seek shelter amid airstrikes, while others remain on cruise ships that cannot sail through the Strait of Hormuz.

In a major move on Monday, the US State Department urged all US citizens to leave more than a dozen West Asian countries over safety risks amid ongoing escalations that have dragged the region into significant chaos. US Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Mora Namdar said on the social media platform X that Americans in countries including Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel should "DEPART NOW" using any available commercial transportation.

The State Department has also evacuated non-emergency personnel and families in six nations, adding the United Arab Emirates to its list on Tuesday. The UAE, home to Dubai and Abu Dhabi and long considered a safe corner of West Asia, has been drawn into the Iran war with interceptions and attacks.

In Israel, meanwhile, the US ambassador told Americans that the best way to leave is through Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Mike Huckabee wrote on X early Tuesday that the embassy was receiving numerous evacuation requests, as staff "are sheltering in place".

"There are VERY LIMITED options," he wrote. "Not sure when Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv will reopen."

US totally stupid to attack us during talks: Iran ambassador

GENEVA, AFP: The United States made a "totally stupid decision" to attack Iran while in negotiations, and betrayed Gulf nations by trashing their diplomatic efforts, Tehran's UN ambassador said Tuesday.

Ali Bahreini, Iran's ambassador in Geneva, insisted Tehran had no problem with its neighbours, but could not let US bases in the Gulf be used as launchpads for attacks on Iran. "War was not our option. War was imposed on Iran," Bahreini told UN correspondents. "Nobody should expect Iran to show restraint in front of aggression. "We will continue our defence until the point that this aggression is stopped," he said.

On February 26, Washington and Tehran held indirect negotiations in Geneva on Iran's nuclear programme — with the Omani mediators reporting "significant progress".

Beijing votes out three generals from political advisory body

BEIJING, AFP: China's top political advisory body voted to remove three generals, state media said, a week after nine military officials were ousted from the country's legislature.

Beijing has intensified a sweeping purge of military officials in the days before thousands of delegates from across the country meet for the annual Two Sessions political conclave, which starts on Wednesday.

Simultaneous gatherings of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), and a separate political advisory body, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), will be held over the course of a week.

The CPPCC voted at a Standing Committee meeting to remove retired military generals Han Weiguo, Liu Lei and Gao Jin, Xinhua reported on Monday.

While they can theoretically appeal the ruling, such decisions are usually final.

Indian-American student among 4 killed in Texas mass shooting

FBI probes possible extremist links after gunman opens fire in Austin

HOUSTON, PTI

A 21-year-old Indian-American student is among four people killed in a shooting outside a bar in Austin that is being investigated as a possible act of terrorism.

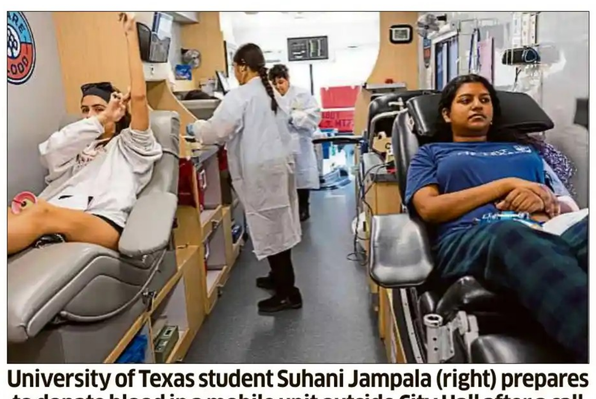
Savitha Shan, an Austin native and a dual-degree senior at the University of Texas at Austin, was fatally shot when a gunman opened fire in a crowded entertainment district on West Sixth Street on Sunday. She was months away from graduation and was described by university officials as an outstanding student leader studying management information systems and economics.

The identities of the two people who died at the scene were confirmed by Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis at a news conference on Monday afternoon. They are Ryder Harrington, 19, and Shan.

The Indian-American community in Texas is mourning after Shan was identified as one of the victims of Sunday's mass shooting in downtown Austin. The killing has sent shockwaves through Austin's sizeable Indian diaspora, particularly among students and technology professionals in the city's "Silicon Hills" corridor.

Heightened security concerns have emerged across the country following attacks on Iran this weekend by the United States and Israel, and retaliation by Iran.

A spokesman for the University of Texas at Austin confirmed Shan was a student at the school and said her legal last name was Shanmugasundaram, according to school records.


University of Texas student Suhani Jampala (right) prepares to donate blood in a mobile unit outside City Hall after a call went out for donations following the mass shooting at a bar in Austin, Texas, on Monday. REUTERS

Trump had some great times with Epstein, says Clinton

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

Former President Bill Clinton told lawmakers that President Donald Trump told him he had "some great times" with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein before their relationship soured, according to a video released on Monday.

In a videotaped deposition to the House of Representatives Oversight Committee, the former Democratic president said under oath that Trump brought up Epstein at a golf tournament in 2002 or 2003, after Clinton left office and more than a decade before Trump was elected president.

"Somehow he knew I had flown in Jeffrey Epstein's aircraft," Clinton told the committee. "He said, 'You know, we had some great times together over the years, but we fell out all because of a real estate deal.'"

Trump has said the relationship soured after Epstein hired young women who worked at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club.

Clinton said the exchange did not lead him to believe Trump was involved in anything improper involving Epstein. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Both Clinton and Trump associated with Epstein before the well-connected financier pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting prostitution from a minor. Both have repeatedly said they did not see any evidence of sex trafficking, and neither has been accused by authorities of criminal activity related to Epstein, who entertained a long list of business and financial leaders at his lavish residences in New York, Florida and the Caribbean.

Epstein was arrested again in 2019 and died in prison while facing federal sex trafficking charges. His death was ruled a suicide.

Under Trump, the Justice Department has released millions of records from its investigations into Epstein, including photos of Clinton with women whose faces have been redacted.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

The Blood Moon lunar eclipse turns the moon red for a brief period early on Tuesday in Los Angeles as earth moves directly between the sun and the moon. AFP

67 Afghan Taliban killed in fresh border operations: Pakistan

▸ Pakistan security forces killed another 67 Afghan Taliban personnel in overnight operations, repulsing their attacks at 16 locations along the south-western border early Tuesday, PTI reports from Islamabad.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar provided updates on the ongoing Operation Ghadab-ul-Haq, launched on Feb 26 in response to Afghan Taliban raids. Tarar said 40 Afghan Taliban personnel were killed in overnight operations in the border region along Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. "A physical attack was attempted at one place, while fire raids were conducted at 12 locations, all of which were repulsed without any loss of life," he said in an update posted on X. "At least 40 Afghan Taliban were killed in the overnight operations in KP," he said, adding that follow-up operations were continuing. Separately, the Afghan Taliban launched physical attacks from across the border at 16 locations in northern Balochistan, in Qilla Saifullah, Noshki and Chaman districts, while engaging Pakistani troops at 25 locations in fire raids.

1 in 3 women in EU face violence

▸ Physical and sexual violence affects roughly a third of women in the European Union during their lifetime, but most incidents go unreported, a survey revealed on Tuesday, , Reuters reports from Brussels.

The results of the survey, conducted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the European Institute for Gender Equality, showed that only 11.3% of women reported physical or sexual abuse by non-partners to the police, and just 6.1% reported violence by intimate partners.

Common reasons for not reporting violence included shame, self-blame, fear and distrust in law enforcement. Limited awareness of, or access to, support services also emerged as contributing factors.

A visitor tries Birdly, a virtual reality simulator, during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on Tuesday. AFP

Singapore to hire more foreigners

▸ Singapore on Tuesday announced an expansion of its foreign manpower policy, opening eight service-sector jobs to workers from more countries, including India, from September, and introducing a new work pass from 2027 to attract global talent, PTI reports from Singapore.

Manpower Minister Tan See Leng said eight occupations in social, food and air transport services will be added to the Non-Traditional Source Occupation List from September, allowing work permit holders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand to be hired for these roles.

Talks on autonomous weapons

▸ The chair of the talks on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) said on Tuesday that progress on a potential international framework is urgently needed, as talks on the matter enter a crucial phase, Reuters reports from Geneva.

From this week to the mandate's end in September, 128 states will discuss whether to agree by consensus on a non-binding text that could pave the way for future negotiations on prohibitions and regulations on LAWS.

Since 2014, more than a hundred states party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons have met in the Swiss city to discuss banning LAWS that do not comply with existing international law while regulating others. "If we wait then it almost gets to a stage where you're too late... We will be overtaken by technological developments," Robert in den Bosch, the Dutch Disarmament Ambassador in Geneva and Chair of the CCW Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS, said.

Actor Cillian Murphy poses upon arrival for the global premiere of the film 'Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man' in Birmingham, on Monday. AFP

Home services startup Pronto raises $25 million

BENGALURU, DHNS: Quick home services startup Pronto has raised $25 million in Series-B funding led by Epiq Capital, through which it will deepen presence across the cities it serves. Existing investors Glade Brook Capital, General Catalyst and Bain Capital Ventures also participated in the round.

Anjali Sardana

The capital will go towards hiring and training, and deepening operations over the next 12-18 months.

In India, the quick home services landscape is evolving significantly. According to Redseer, what was once fragmented, is now evolving into a structured ecosystem, with a total addressable market of Rs 5,10,000 crore to Rs 5,21,000 crore in FY25, and projected growth of 10-11% CAGR through FY2030.

Pronto said daily bookings on its platform have grown from 1,000 to over 18,000 over the last seven months, and it is currently growing at over 20% week-on-week. Pronto now works with nearly 3,000 Pros and a core team of around 60, said Founder and CEO of Pronto, Anjali Sardana.

Infosys, Intel expand collaboration

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infosys and Intel on Tuesday announced the next phase of their partnership to help enterprises move from AI pilots to production at scale. This partnership brings together Intel's high-performance, energy-efficient compute platforms and Infosys Topaz Fabric – a purpose-built agentic services suite and a multi-layer AI fabric that unifies infrastructure, models, data, applications, and workflows into a composable, agent-ready ecosystem, Infosys said.

Together, Infosys and Intel are co-innovating on the design, development, optimisation, and benchmarking of AI workloads across Intel Xeon processors, Intel Gaudi AI accelerators, and Intel AI PCs.

DIRE STRAITS: Iran war blocks Hormuz, disrupts supply; crude oil price crosses $85 a barrel

India well-stocked with oil, says Puri

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

"Based on continuous monitoring, the government is cautiously optimistic that phased measures can be taken, if required, to further mitigate the situation.

India is well-stocked with crude oil and has adequate inventories of key petroleum products, including petrol, diesel and ATF, to deal with short-term disruptions, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday as oil prices surged to over $85 a barrel amid deepening crisis in West Asia.

Puri claimed that Indian energy companies have access to energy supplies that are not routed through the Strait of Hormuz. "Such cargoes will remain available and help mitigate supplies that may be temporarily affected enroute through Hormuz," he said.

According to government sources, India has around 50 days of oil stocks. This includes 25 days of refined petroleum products like petrol and diesel and 25 days worth of crude oil.

Sources added that the government has no immediate plans to raise the retail price of petrol and diesel.

Meanwhile, Iranian attack on oil tankers forced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints.

Nearly a fifth of the world's oil and gas supplies passes through the strait, which lies between Iran and Oman, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

Amid escalating war in the region, Iran claimed that it had closed the strait. This led to a sharp jump in oil prices for the third day. Price of Brent crude soared by more than 8% to over $85 a barrel, its highest level since July 2024.

Escalation in the US' and Israel's war with Iran is likely to push the prices further up in the coming days, analysts said.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas said it has established a 24×7 Control Room to continuously monitor the supply and stock position of petroleum products across the country. "At present, the government is reasonably comfortable in terms of stocks. Safeguarding the interests of Indian consumers remains the highest priority," it said.

"Based on continuous monitoring, the government is cautiously optimistic that phased measures can be taken, if required, to further mitigate the situation," the ministry said.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal informed that the Centre has created an "Inter-Ministerial Group" to monitor the supply-chain. The group comprises members from the Department of Financial Services; Ministry of External Affairs; Ministry of Shipping, Ports & Waterways; Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; and Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs.

"Today, a consultation meeting was held with all stakeholder ministries, key logistics and trade facilitation partners to review the emerging geopolitical situation and its potential impact on India's exports and imports," Goyal said in a post on X.

Analysts warned that the oil price rise would push India's import bills, leading to higher inflation and putting pressure on monetary tightening.

"The short-term impact would be an increase in commodity prices and some supply disruption. Overall, the impact depends on how long conflict will continue," said Devendra Pant, Chief Economist, Ind-Ra.

'Asian countries most at risk from oil, gas supply shocks'

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Asian countries most at risk from oil and gas supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are affected by the emerging global situation due to the escalating conflict between Iran and the US-Israel alliance, according to an analysis by Zero Carbon Analytics (ZCA).

Of the top countries that import oil and gas via Hormuz, Japan faces the most-direct risk of disruption, due to its high share of oil and gas trade through the shipping route and its reliance on imported oil and gas. South Korea ranks second-most at risk, India third and China fourth.

Around 20% of the world's oil and LNG passes through the 3.22-km-wide shipping lanes, making the strait a major chokepoint in global energy supply. Iran may disrupt or block the shipping route.

"Four Asian countries, China, India, Japan and South Korea, account for 75% of oil and 59% of LNG flows through the strait." the ZCA said.

The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran and Oman on the Arabian Peninsula and connects the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea.

The chokepoint is the main route for oil exported from major West Asia producers, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran, and the only route for LNG from Qatar and the UAE to enter global markets.

Ultimately, disruption in the strait would seriously affect all oil and gas-importing countries, as it would lead to global oil and gas prices rising rapidly, likely to historic levels, the ZCA analysis said.

As much as 84% of oil and 83% of LNG shipped through Hormuz in 2024 went to Asian markets, the report said, quoting US Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates.

While China and India are the largest single destinations for oil and LNG travelling through the Strait, Japan and South Korea are far more vulnerable to supply shocks. According to an analysis by Ember, 87% of Japan's and 81% of South Korea's total energy usage comes from imported fossil fuels, compared to 20% for China and 35% for India.

Travel firms scramble as airspace closures strand Indian travellers

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Tour operators and online travel companies in India are scrambling to manage the fallout from airspace closures over West Asia, as thousands of travellers face uncertainty and cancelled flights. "Passenger confidence and booking behaviour get affected by changes in departure times, reroutes and advisory updates," said Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) President Ravi Gosain. He added that to aid travellers, tour operators are providing flexible rebooking options, while working closely with airlines to keep them informed.

Companies have ramped up operational measures. MakeMyTrip has increased customer support capacity by 2.5 times and is leveraging AI to deliver timely updates, while ixigo has initiated proactive Voice AI calls to travellers whose plans may be affected. EaseMyTrip Co-founder Rikant Pittie advised passengers on X to keep return travel plans flexible.

According to Gosain, the travel industry has strengthened crisis response systems after previous disruptions, enabling better operational flexibility for travellers navigating these uncertain times.

The disruptions come amid escalating tensions in West Asia, where missiles and drone barrages by Iran toward targets in the Gulf, aimed at US military assets, have forced temporary closures of key transit hubs including Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha. This has brought one of the world's busiest aviation corridors to a near halt, stranding thousands of Indian travellers and disrupting over 1,000 flights to and from India in three days, according to industry-tracking sites.

"The airspace shutdown in specific regions of West Asia resulted in 100% flight cancellations for Gulf-bound flights from India operated by Emirates, Air India, IndiGo and Etihad Airways, among others," Gosain said.

Bloomberg reported that Indian carriers are among the hardest-hit outside West Asia, with 357 flights cancelled on Sunday alone and over 250 cancelled at Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai airports on Tuesday. With West Asia handling over 50-60% of India-Europe transit traffic, these closures have created severe bottlenecks across global aviation networks.

Air India, for instance, said on X that it has "resumed flights to the USA, Canada, Europe and the UK, prioritising safety, while temporarily suspending operations to and from the Middle East until 2359 Hrs (IST) of 3 March 2026".

Outbound tourism has also suffered, particularly with summer approaching. The UAE received about 8.6 million Indian travellers in 2025, with 11.9 million passing through Dubai International Airport. Attractions such as Burj Khalifa and Dubai Mall make the emirate a preferred destination, but airport closures and uncertainty have forced many travellers to cancel or defer plans.

Geopolitical stress, oil shock put Bitcoin at risk

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Geopolitical tensions in West Asia have injected fresh volatility into global markets and with oil prices surging up, broader cryptocurrencies declined alongside Bitcoin. The price of the largest cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, fell below $67,000 on Tuesday evening. Experts said any disruption in the Strait of Hormuz could intensify inflation risks and delay rate cuts, pressuring risk assets like Bitcoin in the short-term.

"However, historical patterns show that Bitcoin had strong recoveries in the long-term. During the 2022 Ukraine crisis, crude spiked 50%, while Bitcoin fell 18%, only to rebound 40% within weeks. Similar patterns followed later conflicts," Akshat Siddhant, Lead quant analyst, Mudrex said.

During such a volatile period, a long-term outlook is a must, experts pointed out. Bitcoin and altcoins tend to see sharp short-term volatility during such events (rising oil prices and geopolitical conflicts) as institutional investors move toward safer assets like gold, Vikas Gupta, Country Manager — India, Bybit, told *DH*.

Last October, Bitcoin reached a new all-time high of above $125,000. But later, the largest cryptocurrency started tumbling.

Nischal Shetty, Founder, WazirX, said after a $300-million leverage flush, Bitcoin's weakening sentiment improved marginally, even as equities slid on geopolitical tensions. The support levels are intact and the price reaching $68k levels, makes the near-term outlook neutral, inclining towards consolidation.

However, the short-term gain which was sustained only by liquidation of over-leveraged positions might not sustain, and Bitcoin might follow the equities way, with more investors allocating capital to risk off assets or limiting exposure to trades. The current 4% increase in the last 24 hours indicates that the market speculations of the Fed infusing liquidity to tackle war-based economic impact, also have chances of boosting Bitcoin prices. Investors are treading cautiously, but are also swept by the majority sentiment, Shetty added.

Ethereum, the second-largest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation, has fallen below $2,000 on Tuesday evening.

Vikram Subburaj, CEO, Giottus.com, said Bitcoin is coming under pressure in step with the wider 'risk-off' tape.

"At the same time, this environment also underlines why digital assets matter. Its significance and core values of global, 24/7 settlement play out. Digital assets can move value quickly across borders. In practice, that tends to show up as higher utility and attention around regulated fiat-backed stablecoins during volatile windows," Subburaj said.

However, investors must remember that not all 'stable' coins carry the same reserve quality or liquidity profile. So, due diligence is non-negotiable, he added.

Experts said investors should keep it boring and disciplined. They should reduce leverage, avoid chasing spikes, and focus on position sizing. According to Subburaj, long-term allocators can consider phased buying via SIP-style averaging rather than single-shot entries. Short-term traders should treat this as a volatility regime. "Most importantly, watch the macro transmission from oil into inflation and rate expectations. If energy stays elevated, risk assets can remain choppy even if the conflict de-escalates," he said.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru - 560010.

No: EE/SD/TEND/04/2025-26 Date: 03-03-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Repair and Maintenance Building Auditorium and Community Halls in West Zone. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 68.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,36,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 04-03-2026, 4.00 PM onwards. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **06-03-2026 at 4.00 PM. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **13-03-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **16-03-2026 at 4.30 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **18-03-2026 at 4.30 PM (if possible).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC.

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bengaluru

No: KST/KBS/COM/1070/2025-26 Date:26.02.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 13/2025-26
(Through KPP Portal Mode only)

Applications are invited from interested parties through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPP Portal) from **27.02.2026 to 23.03.2026** for selection of licensees for vacant / to be vacant at Terminal-01 Stall No. 07, 24, 26, 44, 46, 48, 58, 61, 118, 123, Telephone Booth, Terminal-2 Stall No 114, Terminal-2A Stall No 07, 12, Terminal-03 Stall No 02, Car & two wheeler parking (Terminal-3 entrance left and right side vacant space & Back side and beside the Indira canteen) at Kempegowda Bus Station. Stall No. 03, 06, 08, 11,12, 11&12, 13, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, at Mysuru Road Bus Station. Bengaluru and lower ground floor, upper ground floor, second floor and Overall total bus station as a Single Developer at Peenya Sri Basaweshawara Bus Station, Bengaluru. Tender documents can be downloaded at KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and can be viewed at KSRTC website ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in. For more information please visit Division office, Kempegowda Bus Station Division, KSRTC, Bengaluru-560009 and Contact Nos. 7760990554 /7760990557, KPP portal help Line 09240214000/ 09240214001. support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/- Divisional Controller, KBS Division, Benglauru.

DIPR/CP/JA/5963/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-65:2025-26 Dated:- 03.03.2026

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:-Two cover System:- Head of Account 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP Works:- (1) Improvements to D.S.Halli to CTM road from Ch 9.00 to 14.00 Km selected reaches in Chitradurga Taluk (WI.31430)/call-3

Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:- 350.00

Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 17-03-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 18-03-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 20-03-2026 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 23-03-2026 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 727/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, **Email ID:** eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Short Term Tender Notification No. 62/2025-26 DATED: 02.03.2026

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, South Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP.

Tender Notification are Published for 01 work **(Rs. 8.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender work can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.

1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 10.03.2026**

2. The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **11.03.2026 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/5958/Zen/2025-26

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/20/2025-26 Date: 02-03-2026

RE-E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Re-Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of Cathlab to Kodagu Institute of Medical College, Madikeri.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded & applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 03-03-2026

Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 12-03-2026 at 11.30 AM

Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 04-04-2026 before 5.00 PM

Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 06-04-2026 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

Sd/- Director
Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5954/Adverto/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE MINERALS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office : TTMC 'A' Block 5th Floor, BMTC Building, KH Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027.
Phone: 080-22278813/14/15/16, Fax : 080-22213172
Website: https://ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KSMCL/PROD/BP/Installation/2025-26/3224/3224 Date: 03.03.2026

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

KSMCL invites Invitation for Expression of Interest in undertaking the comprehensive study, statutory compliance management, and installation of Beneficiation Plant at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine situated at Sandur Taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka.

Calender of events

1	Tender Reference No	KSMCL/2025-26/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_2
2	Commencement of downloading the EOI Invitation from the e-Procurement portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	From 03/03/2026
3	Pre Bid Meeting	06/03/2026 at 11.30 AM
4	Last date of receipt of EOI	02/04/2026 up to 5.00 PM
5	Date of opening of EOI	04/04/2026 at 11:30 AM
6	Address for communication	**General Manager (P) Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited** TTMC, "A" Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Phone: 080-22278813/ 14/15/16

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (P)

DIPR/CP/5966/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following Enquiry Numbers:

No: CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC &APCC)/EE-Proc-2/AEE-6/2025-26/4392-4407 Date:03.03.2026

Enquiry Numbers / Name of the Works

1) KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3411

Combined Package for
Work-A: Replacement of **1x8MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer by **1x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer and Providing Additional **1x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer at 66/11kV **Belavadi** sub-station in Arakalagudu Taluk, Hassan District.
Work-B: Replacement of 2x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA**, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **Somanahally** sub-station in Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District.
Work-C : Replacement of 1x6.3MVA & 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA** 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **Hallimysore** sub-station in Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District.
on **Partial Turnkey Basis, (on Percentage rate basis)** including Supply of all Materials/Equipments and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials / Equipments, Testing and Commissioning and dismantling of the materials.
Bid Documents in KPP Portal: **On or after 06.03.2026 at 15:30 Hrs.**

No: CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE(Proc-2)/AEE-3/2025-26/4375-4391 Date:03.03.2026

2) KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT3315

Strengthening of **220 kV Vasanthanarasapura - Antharasanahalli DC Line** from Moose ACSR to High Performance Conductor (HPC) in existing corridor for a distance of 18.5 kms along with modification works in connected 220kV Terminal Bays at 220/66/11kV **Antharasanahalli** Receiving Station in Tumakuru Taluk and District on **"Total Turnkey Basis"** including Supply of all Materials / Equipments, Erection (Including Dismantling and Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.
Bid Documents in KPP Portal: **On or after 04.03.2026 at 15:30 Hrs.**

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.
All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech), Corporate Office, KPTCL, 11th Floor, Indhana Bhavan, A. R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

IN BRIEF

Financial help for para-athlete Gangavva

▸ The Karnataka Olympic Association (KOA) has extended financial assistance of Rs one lakh to para-athlete Gangavva Neelappa from Shiggaon taluk in Haveri district to support her training programmes, reports DHNS.

Gangavva has participated in various national and international Para Athletic Championships and also took part in the blind World Cricket Championship.

Mathru Cup from March 4

▸ The Karnataka State Basketball Association will conduct the 12th edition of the Mathru Cup basketball championship for women for the SMN Memorial Trophy from March 4 to 8 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium Indoor and Outdoor Courts, reports DHNS.

Women's team for Laureaus

▸ In a first, the Indian women's cricket squad has been nominated for the prestigious 2026 Laureus World Team of the Year Award following their maiden World Cup title triumph, reports PTI from Madrid.

The award winners will be announced at a gala event to be held at the Cibeles Palace in Madrid on April 20.

Getafe deal Madrid big blow

▸ Real Madrid fell to a damaging 1-0 defeat by Getafe at home in La Liga on Monday, leaving them four points behind leaders Barcelona, reports AFP from Madrid.

Alvaro Arbeloa's side, beaten by a superb volley from Martin Satriano (in pic), suffered a second consecutive loss in the Spanish top flight for the first time since 2020.

Indian team trains without proper kits

PERTH, PTI: In an embarrassing development that exposed mismanagement within the All India Football Federation (AIFF), national team players complained about a lack of appropriate clothing during preparation and the arrival of ill-fitting kits just a day before their opening AFC Women's Asian Cup match in Australia.

In an unprecedented letter addressed to AIFF Deputy General Secretary M Satyanarayanan ahead of India's opening match against Vietman in Perth on Wednesday, all the 26 players of the squad expressed their frustration at the lack of proper clothing and playing kits, saying it has affected their morale and disrupted their focus.

"Representing India on the international stage requires professional standards, including properly fitted and appropriate match and training apparel," the letter said, clearly suggesting lack of professionalism in the AIFF management.

"Over the past days, players and staff have already faced challenges due to the lack of appropriate clothing during preparation."

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 WC Semifinal: South Africa vs New Zealand **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

EPL: Aston Villa vs Chelsea, Brighton vs Arsenal, Fulham vs West Ham United, Manchester City vs Nottingham Forest **(all 1 am, Thursday)**, Newcastle United vs Manchester United **(1:45 am, Thursday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

BADMINTON

All England Open: Round of 32 **(3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2**, **JioHotstar**.

GENERAL

Sport plunges into uncertainty

West Asia turmoil hits major events, including F1, football

MELBOURNE, AFP

FIA chief Mohammed Ben Sulayem said "safety and wellbeing" will guide decision-making with Formula One's calendar plunged into uncertainty by the war in the West Asia.

While major sporting event, scheduled in the Middle East are impacted, rest of the regions are impacted too.

This weekend's season-opening Australian Grand Prix has been hit by travel chaos but is not under threat. After Melbourne, Formula One heads to China then Japan, which are not expected to be affected.

However, concerns are mounting over whether next month's Bahrain race from April 10-12 and Saudi Arabia a week later will be able to go ahead.

US President Donald Trump on Monday said the assault on Iran could go "far longer" than his initial estimates of about a month.

In response, Iran and its allies have launched retaliatory strikes on Israel as well as US military bases and other areas in a host of Mideast nations, including Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Ben Sulayem, president of global motorsport governing body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), said he was closely monitoring the situation.

"At this moment of uncertainty, we hope for calm and a swift return to stability. Dialogue and the protection of civilians must remain priorities," he said in his first statement on the matter late Monday.

"We are in close contact with our member clubs, championship promoters, teams, and colleagues on the ground as we monitor developments carefully and responsibly.

"Safety and wellbeing will guide our decisions as we assess the forthcoming events scheduled for the World Endurance Championship and the Formula 1 World Championship."

The Endurance Championship is a leading sportscar event due to open its season in Qatar at the end of March.

While freight, including the cars, is safely in Melbourne for the Grand Prix this weekend, the closure of airspace and airports in the West Asia has caused chaos to travel plans for team personnel.

Dubai and Doha are major flight hubs on the path to Melbourne and around 1,000 race staff have had to scramble and change flights.

Australian Formula One chief Travis Auld on Monday said he was confident "everyone will be here ready for the race".

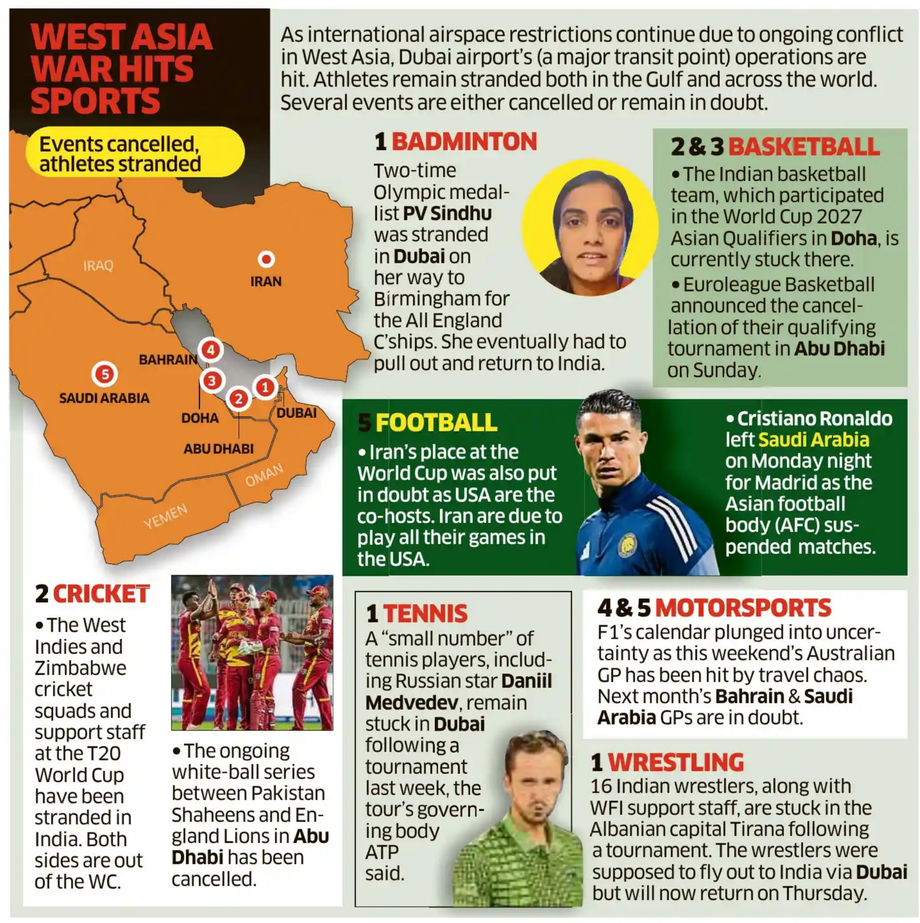
"We're in a space where we're really confident there will be no impact," he added.

McLaren world champion Lando Norris will kickstart his title defence in Melbourne, which will be the first race for new team Cadillac.

Messi's Finalissima in doubt

WASHINGTON, AP: Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo are among the sports stars whose schedules are in doubt because of the spreading war in the West Africa, reports AP from Washington.

Cancellations and travel shutdowns are already affecting events since the United States and Israel launched a wave of strikes on Iran on Saturday. Organisers of major football games will face decisions soon on whether the competitions can go ahead as scheduled.The clock is ticking for a decision on whether to cancel or move the Finalissima football game on March 27 in Qatar between Spain and Argentina, the champions of Europe and South America. That match would offer Messi a chance to win yet another trophy.


WEST ASIA WAR HITS SPORTS
Events cancelled, athletes stranded
As international airspace restrictions continue due to ongoing conflict in West Asia, Dubai airport's (a major transit point) operations are hit. Athletes remain stranded both in the Gulf and across the world. Several events are either cancelled or remain in doubt.
IRAQ
IRAN
BAHRAIN
SAUDI ARABIA
DOHA
DUBAI
ABU DHABI
OMAN
YEMEN
1 BADMINTON
Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu was stranded in Dubai on her way to Birmingham for the All England C'ships. She eventually had to pull out and return to India.
2 CRICKET
• The West Indies and Zimbabwe cricket squads and support staff at the T20 World Cup have been stranded in India. Both sides are out of the WC.
• The ongoing white-ball series between Pakistan Shaheens and England Lions in Abu Dhabi has been cancelled.
2 & 3 BASKETBALL
• The Indian basketball team, which participated in the World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers in Doha, is currently stuck there.
• Euroleague Basketball announced the cancellation of their qualifying tournament in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.
5 FOOTBALL
• Iran's place at the World Cup was also put in doubt as USA are the co-hosts. Iran are due to play all their games in the USA.
• Cristiano Ronaldo left Saudi Arabia on Monday night for Madrid as the Asian football body (AFC) suspended matches.
1 TENNIS
A "small number" of tennis players, including Russian star Daniil Medvedev, remain stuck in Dubai following a tournament last week, the tour's governing body ATP said.
4 & 5 MOTORSPORTS
F1's calendar plunged into uncertainty as this weekend's Australian GP has been hit by travel chaos. Next month's Bahrain & Saudi Arabia GPs are in doubt.
1 WRESTLING
16 Indian wrestlers, along with WFI support staff, are stuck in the Albanian capital Tirana following a tournament. The wrestlers were supposed to fly out to India via Dubai but will now return on Thursday.

Will Iran take part in USA co-hosted FIFA World Cup?

PARIS, AFP

The war in the West Asia triggered by US and Israeli strikes on Iran has raised the question of whether the Iranian national team will take part in the FIFA World Cup later this year, during which it is due to play group games in the USA.

What is Iran's position?

The possibility of a boycott of the World Cup has been raised in Iran. Iranian Football Federation president Mehdi Taj made it clear that they are not hoping to play the World Cup in the current situation and also announced that the Iranian domestic league had been suspended.

Iran have been drawn in Group G with Belgium, Egypt and New Zealand and are due to play two games in Los Angeles and one in Seattle.

A large Iranian diaspora has lived in Los Angeles since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. A large part of that diaspora backed the Pahlavi dynasty which was overthrown in the revolution.

What is FIFA's position?

World football's governing body is remaining cautious regarding the possibility of Iran pulling out of the World Cup.

A source close to FIFA said no discussions had yet taken place with the Iranian federation regarding a possible withdrawal of the team from the tournament.

FIFA's regulations do not provide for the possibility of a boycott of the World Cup by a qualified team. A source close to world football's governing body said "specific decisions" would have to be taken to replace Iran with another team if necessary.

Article 6 of the regulations for the 2026 World Cup says that "if a participating member association withdraws...as a result of force majeure," FIFA "shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary."

Vaishnavi in Indian team for BJKC tie

NEW DELHI, PTI: Promising Vaishnavi Adkar was on Tuesday drafted into the Indian team for the Billie Jean King Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tie, to be held here from April 6.

The 21-year-old Adkar recently made history in Bengaluru, becoming the first Indian woman to reach the W100 final since Sania Mirza.

Adkar had also bagged the Ahmedabad W15 title in 2024, signalling her steady rise through the ranks.

Apart from Adkar, India have fielded seasoned Sahaja Yamalapalli and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty along with Rutuja Bhosale and Ankita Raina.

Vaidehee Chaudhari has been named as the reserve in the team.

"A coaching camp will be held one week prior to the event. Vishal Uppal will be the Captain and Radhika Kanitkar will be the coach of the Indian Team," the All India Tennis Association (AITA) said in release.

India were beaten by the Netherlands and Slovenia in the Billie Jean King Cup play-offs held at Bengaluru in November last year, forcing them to start the 2026 campaign in the Asia/Oceania Group I.

India team for BJKC: Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Rutuja Bhosale, Ankita Raina, Vaishnavi Adkar, Vaidehee Chaudhari (reserve).

Vaishnavi Adkar

RCB to assemble in Bengaluru on March 15: Prasad

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) president Venkatesh Pradesh confirmed that the remaining security enchancement works at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here will be completed before the Royal Challengers Bengaluru squad assemble on March 15.

The franchise on Tuesday afternoon confirmed they will play five home games at the venue, including the curtain raiser, ending months of uncertainty. "Yes, there is some bit of work still left and as far as we are concerned, it is going to be delivered within the timelines that we have given the (state appointed) expert committee headed by Mr. Maheshwar Rao," Prasad said.

Venkatesh Prasad

"We have satisfied them to the best extent possible. They have repeated meetings here. They have come, even yesterday morning, to assess the works.

"The RCB is likely to assemble here on March 15, and the ticketed Unbox event will happen here a week ahead of the IPL's opening match," he added. The association has also informed the expect committee of the security enhancement measures that they have undertaken thus far.

"We have some new ideas to ensure that we regulate the crowd a little more efficiently. We have increased the number of gates, as we have built 13 new gates, measuring 9m width as against 6m instructed by the expert committee," Santosh Menon said.

All-round Karnataka hammer J&K in One-Day opener

BENGALURU, DHNS: An all-round Karnataka put in an impressive performance with both bat and ball to record a comfortable six-wicket win over Jammu and Kashmir in their BCCI Women's under-23 one-day Trophy opener at the RCA Academy Ground in Jaipur on Tuesday.

Having won the toss and opting to bat, J&K, riding a lone batting effort from Bawandeep Kaur (88), could only manage 211/7 in 50 overs. Vandita K Rao picked up 2/45 for Karnataka.

Chasing 212 for the win, none of the Karnataka batters could score a big knock, but as many as five from the top six scored 32 runs or more as they romped home in 40.3 overs. Chandasi Krishnamurthy (42 n.o.) and Mithila Vinod (41 n.o.) were the top two scorers for Karnataka. Karnataka will next play Baroda on March 5.

Brief scores: J&K: 211/7 in 50 overs (Shanu Devi 32, Bawandeep Kaur 88, Vandita K Rao 2-45) lt to Karnataka: 212/4 in 40.3 overs (Prerana GR 32, Rachitha Hatwar 33, Niki Prasad 33, Chandasi Krishnamurthy 42 n.o., Mithila Vinod 41 n.o.; Rudrakshi Chib 2-38).

Lakshya stuns defending champ Yu Qi

BIRMINGHAM, PTI

India's Lakshya Sen gave a fine display of his mental strength and physical prowess, defeating China's Shi Yu Qi in a gripping three-game contest that swung on razor thin margins and relentless pace at the All England Championships here on Tuesday.

Lakshya prevailed 23-21, 19-21, 21-17 in the contest that was as physical as it was tactical, marking his first victory over the former world No. 1 in a BWF world tour event.

Lakshya had defeated the Chinese in the Asian Games team championships in 2023.

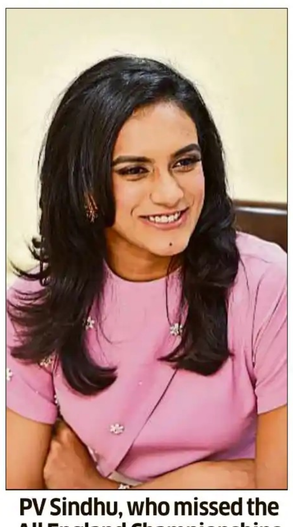
"Lakshya was very calm and composed today. Right from the start, he made Shi work hard for every single point, and eventually the Chinese player began to tire," Lakshya's coach, Vimal Kumar, said.

India's Lakshya Sen scalped defending champion Shi Yu Qi of China in a thrilling three-game opener at the All England Championships in Birmingham on Tuesday. PTI FILE PHOTO

"At one stage in the second game, I felt Lakshya was getting a bit fatigued, but he recovered well and raised his level. His attacking play was excellent too. Overall, it was a very confidence boosting win."

Lakshya looked sharp from the outset, opening up an 11-7 lead at the mid game interval in the first game with sharp angled smashes and quick interceptions at the net. He stretched it to 17-12, repeatedly breaking down Shi's defence with steep cross-court winners and tight net exchanges. However, the contest turned dramatic when Lakshya squandered leads of 18-12 and 19-16. Shi suddenly came alive, reeling off three straight points to draw level at 20-20. The Chinese saved three game points in a tense finish and forced 21-all after another burst of attacking play. Lakshya earned a fourth opportunity but let it slip before Shi's backhand found the net to hand the Indian a fifth game point. This time Lakshya sealed it with a decisive cross court smash. In other results, Malvika Bansod suffered an 11-21, 6-21 loss to China's Chen Yu Fei. The mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto registered a 21-17, 21-19 win over Hoo Pang Ron and Cheng Su Yin of Malaysia.

It was stressful, says Sindhu



PV Sindhu, who missed the All England Championships after being stranded in Dubai for more than two days, managed to reach Bengaluru on Tuesday morning.

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Within 15 minutes of PV Sindhu landing in Dubai on February 28, en route London to take part in the All England, the Indian badminton player and her team were told that the airspace was shut down due to the ongoing conflict between USA-Israel and Iran in West Asia.

Stranded at a transit hotel for more than two days, the two-time Olympic medallist finally boarded a return flight back to India and landed in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

"It was stressful for sure. I landed a few hours after the other Indian players had taken off from Dubai to London," said the 30-year-old shuttler in a virtual interaction.

"I was trying to somehow reach London till the last moment. We checked flights from Oman too, and considered options of coming back to India and take the longer route from Hyderabad or Bengaluru. But no tickets were available. Of course, I'm sad that I missed out on such a prestigious event but safety comes first and the situation is beyond our control."

Sindhu also clarified that the Badminton World Federation have decided to waive off the fine of US $5000 which is levied on a top player for skipping a mandatory Super 1000/750 after qualifying.

"They (BWF) understand the circumstances I was in and waived off the penalty. And regarding the ranking points, I'm in touch with BWF and they said they will take a day to discuss the matter. There were some Japan players who were in the Dubai airport too but got out in time. I was the only player who got stuck," said Sindhu.

With All England missed, the next event on the BWF World Tour is the Swiss Open beginning March 10. Sindhu added that she is uncertain about her participation for that event too.

"I'm trying but with flights full it is tough to say anything now."

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com & cekhsdrp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in**
No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-4, 5 & 6/TND/2025-26/4246 Date:03.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approximate Estimate/ Consultancy service cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of Primary Health Care Center new building at Igoor Village in Davanagere Taluk Davanagere District.	253.17	3.80	06 Months
2	Repairs and Renovations to New Surgical Block and Staff Quarters of Taluk Level Hospital KGF in Kolar District (Call-3)	148.30	2.25	06 Months
3	Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Architectural, Structural and other services design & Drawings for the works of (1) Strengthening of existing district Hospital, Ballari and Upgradation of District Hospital from 300 to 400 Bedded Hospital with necessary Equipment and human resources as per IPHS standards for 2 years (2) Construction of civil works, Human Resources for Strengthening of existing district Hospital, Ballari (HR for 2 years)	119.58 (Including GST)	1.80	18 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders **:18.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **23.03.2026 at 16.01 hrs**
The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.
NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (ADMIN)
SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, P.B.S SCHOOL GROUND
VIJAYANAGRA DIST HOSPET G.MAIL: ddpivijayanagara@gmail.com
No: DDPI/Vijayanagara/Tender/2025-26 **Date: 27-02-2026**

GeM Portal Tender Notification

Online tenders are invited through the GeM (Government e-Marketplace) Portal from eligible registered contractors/authorized agencies for the following 5 works/services falling under the jurisdiction of the Department of School Education, Vijayanagara District, under the KKRDB grants for the year 2024-25.
Name of Work / Service: 1.Smart Class materials for Govt. SchoolsGEM/2026/B/7279746 **Estimated Amount (in Lakhs):** 128.00. **Bid Start Date:** 24/02/2026. **Bid End Date:** 17/03/2026
2.Smart Class materials for Govt. SchoolsGEM/2026/B/7282884. **Estimated Amount (in Lakhs):** 144.00. **Bid Start Date:** 25/02/2026. **Bid End Date:** 18/03/2026
3.Smart Class materials for Govt. SchoolsGEM/2026/B/7299541. **Estimated Amount (in Lakhs):** 32.00. **Bid Start Date:** 27/02/2026. **Bid End Date:** 20/03/2026
4.Supply of Furniture and others Items to Govt. E.C.C.E SchoolsGEM/2026/B/7299541. **Estimated Amount (in Lakhs):** 37.50. **Bid Start Date:** 24/02/2026.**Bid End Date:** 26/03/2026
5.Supply of Furniture and others Items to Govt. E.C.C.E SchoolsGEM/2026/B/7277402. **Estimated Amount (in Lakhs):** 7.50. **Bid Start Date:** 23/02/2026. **Bid End Date:** 25/03/2026
Instructions: 1. To participate in the tender, sellers must be mandatorily registered on the GeM Portal (https://gem.gov.in)Interested parties can obtain further details and tender forms through the GeM Portal (https://gem.gov.in) (Search by Bid Number). 2. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept the tender without providing any reason. 3. Eligible bidders shall submit a 5% EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) amount separately for each work through a Bank Demand Draft. 4. For more information, contact the office during working hours.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/ KSMCA/RO No/564
Sd/- Deputy Director (Administration) Department of School Education, Vijayanagara District.

Wankhede will be quiet on Thursday: Curran fires first salvo

SIDNEY KIRAN
MUMBAI, DHNS

England haven't necessarily been on fire this T20 World Cup, but the two-time champions have got the job done nonetheless to motor on undefeated in the Super Eights like South Africa into the semifinals where they lock horns with defending champions India.

The last-four clash at the Wankhede Stadium will be the third successive semifinal between India and England in a T20 World Cup. All-rounder Sam Curran, who has been a key figure in England's run so far, hoped the Three Lions play the perfect game to down the hosts, who come into the knockout clash buzzing with confidence following rousing wins over Zimbabwe and the West Indies.

"I guess it doesn't really matter now; it comes down to a World Cup semifinal," said Curran during a press conference here on Tuesday. "If there's ever a time we want to play our perfect game, it's probably Thursday night, so I see that as probably a positive that we kind of chat around the group about. We've all been chipping in at different times." "But we know in T20 cricket it probably just takes a couple of our guys to come good with the bat and good with the ball, and we're a quality fielding side as well. So we know we'll kind of come good on that aspect, but yeah, it's exciting, and I guess all of us and English fans, I'm sure, will be hoping that the perfect game comes on Thursday."

Curran, who has scored 149 runs and picked up six wickets in seven matches, said England will be looking to keep the normally noisy Wankhede crowd 'quiet' with a fearless brand of cricket that has brought them a lot of success in white ball. "It's a fantastic stadium, obviously very iconic, but I'm sure it's going to be very quiet on Thursday night! It's going to be an amazing experience. As a young cricketer, I guess you dream of playing India in a semifinal of a World Cup."

"It's normally a pretty good wicket, small ground, so I'm probably expecting a really high-scoring game against India, a quality side. But we've played a lot of cricket here, most of our players have played in the IPL and against India. So I guess we're not fearing anything and I'm sure both teams are really excited by the challenge of Thursday night and hopefully the perfect game for us happens."

A big worry for England has been the poor form of key player Jos Buttler, the opener just managing 62 runs in seven games. Despite growing criticism back home, Curran backed Buttler, saying he's one big knock away from regaining his destructive touch. "Jos is someone I'm pretty close to. He obviously wants more runs. But I certainly would rather have Jos Buttler in my team than coming up against him on Thursday night. I think he's such a quality player. He's done so well for us over many, many years.

"And he's done well on this ground many, many times as well. So hopefully Thursday night is his night. But if it's not, there's no question he's one of the best in the world. So him and Salty (Phil Salt), such a dangerous opening partnership.

The defeat that revolutionised India's white-ball cricket

The 10-wicket loss to England in 2022 T20WC semi brought change in approach

SIDNEY KIRAN
MUMBAI, DHNS

One of the most chastening defeats India have suffered in T20Is came against England in the semifinal of the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia. The Three Lions, who had embraced all out aggression, hammered India by 10 wickets with Jos Buttler and Alex Hales chasing down a competitive 169-run target in just 16 overs.

That defeat at the Adelaide Oval on a balmy summer evening stung head coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma badly. Despite possessing the best T20 league in the world—the IPL—and having a wealth of exciting talent at their disposal, the Indians had failed to adapt a fast-evolving limited-overs cricket, especially T20Is. They followed the ODI template of the old even in T20Is — cautious to begin with, rev up the engine in the middle overs and then press the accelerator towards the end.

With an ODI World Cup at home less than a year away, Dravid knew a thorough shake-up was needed. Just like how England changed their method in 50-over cricket following an abysmal 2015 ODI World Cup where they crashed out in the group phase, Dravid figured that for India to succeed in white-ball cricket they had to abandon conservative approach and embrace fearlessness—something England did exceptionally post 2015 to win the 2019 ODI World Cup at home and the 2022 T20 World Cup.

Dravid, who doesn't get enough credit for his aggressive cricketing mentality because of his gentlemanly demeanour on and off the field, broached the idea to Rohit. A serial winner with Mumbai Indians with a record five IPL trophies then, Rohit was instantly bought into the idea. The toughest part though was implementing it. A radical change in philosophy isn't always welcome in Indian cricket, especially when seniors are around. Pushback isn't uncommon and discontent comes out in the open. Rohit, a much-loved figure in the dressing room, decided he'll show the way with ultra-aggressive batting so that it won't be tough to ask his comrades to follow the same.

Coming charging out of the blocks like a racehorse out of the gates, Rohit focused on maximising the advantage during Power Play by constantly playing over the top. Even when the field spread out, the onus was on scoring a boundary instead of the customary single or two.

Players were given the licence to play attacking cricket without worrying about failures which are bound to occur in a high-risk game.

"The nature of batsmanship in white-ball cricket over the last 10 years or so, everything had started to change. In some ways, there was a feeling that we were slightly behind and we needed to get better at that. We needed to push the envelope a little bit more. We needed to take a few more risks. Run-rates were going up," Dravid recalled during an event in Bengaluru recently.

"When I first took the job and decided that was the direction we needed to go in and had the conversation with Rohit, he instantly was on board with it. He took the lead on that immediately. He was someone who took the responsibility of setting the game forward. The tempo (of playing limited-overs) needed to change. And when your leader stands up and says, 'I'm the one who will do that at the cost of sometimes my so-called average and the runs that I may score,' it's a lot easier to pass that message."

Since then, this Indian team has been a beast in limited-overs cricket. They smashed every comer in the 2023 ODI World Cup, falling short only in the final hurdle against an inspired Australia. Even after that colossal heartbreak, they stuck with the fearless approach, going on to win the 2024 T20 World Cup and 2025 Champions Trophy -both undefeated. They picked up the Asia Cup last September, again spotless.

The Dravid blueprint has been carried effectively by Gautam Gambhir, especially in T20Is. There have been concerns of late in bilateral ODIs but thankfully the fearless philosophy has been maintained. That 2022 defeat against England, whom India meet for a third successive semifinal in the T20 World Cup here on Thursday, sowed the seeds of revolution.

It was during Rahul Dravid-Rohit Sharma era that India changed their limited-overs template, and have been the best white-ball team in the world over close to three years. PTI FILE PHOTO

Lunar eclipse forces India to delay training

The Indian cricket team delayed Tuesday's evening training session by over an hour due to the lunar eclipse, ahead of their T20 World Cup semifinal against England, reports PTI from Mumbai.

The T20 World Cup co-hosts were earlier supposed to train in the evening slot of 6-9pm at the Wankhede Stadium here, but they eventually took the field close to 7:20pm local time.

Some members of the support staff had arrived on the field before the players and a few coaches but the action started after some delay. In fact, even the floodlights of the stadium were turned on around 6:50pm but not at full intensity, which was done moments before the rest of the team took the field.

WI, Zim stranded as West Asia conflict continues

SIDNEY KIRAN
MUMBAI, DHNS

Players and support staff members of both West Indies and Zimbabwe have been stranded in India owing to flight disruptions and airport closures caused by the ongoing war in the West Asia.

Both West Indies and Zimbabwe, who were scheduled to depart on Monday following the conclusion of their Super Eights game of the ICC T20 World Cup, were unable to do so due to flight cancellations and have stayed put in Kolkata and New Delhi respectively.

"Cricket West Indies (CWI) wishes to advise that the departure of the West Indies Senior Men's Team from India, following their exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, has been delayed due to international airspace restrictions," CWI posted on X. "CWI is working closely with the International Cricket Council (ICC), relevant governmental authorities, and airline partners to secure the earliest possible safe travel arrangements for the squad and support staff. The safety and well-being of our players, coaches, and officials remain our highest priority."

Zimbabwe Cricket too took to X to announce their travel troubles. "The squad was scheduled to return home via Dubai, but travel plans have been affected by the evolving situation in the Middle East, which has disrupted key transit routes. ZC remains in constant communication with the ICC and team management on the ground to ensure the squad's safe and timely return."

It has been learnt that the ICC, which is headquartered in Dubai, has been in constant talks with several airline carriers to secure a safe passage out of India for both the West Indies and Zimbabwe.

Kiwi captain Santner shrugs off underdogs' status

KOLKATA, PTI: New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner has shrugged off the underdog tag, declaring both teams "in the same boat" as the Black Caps prepare to face undefeated South Africa for a spot in the T20 World Cup final.

South Africa have looked the most complete side in this edition of the tournament. After being stretched to two Super Overs by Afghanistan earlier in the competition, the Proteas have racked up seven wins on the trot, including a group-stage victory over New Zealand in Ahmedabad, to enter the last-four as the only unbeaten team.

New Zealand's journey has been turbulent as a washout against Pakistan in the Super Eights and a defeat to England left them with little margin for error, and their qualification eventually hinged on net run rate.

"South Africa look like a very good outfit, as they've shown and I guess they're in the same boat as us," Santner said on the eve of the semifinal at Eden Gardens.

"Now it's one game in here until the final you know, and it'll be the same for India and England (in the second semifinal at Wankhede on Thursday)."

New Zealand's only ICC titles remain the World Test Championship crown and the 2000 Champions Trophy triumph, but their consistency at global events is noteworthy.

This is their fourth T20 World Cup semifinal appearance -- after 2007, 2016 and 2022 -- while they have twice finished runners-up in ODI World Cups (2015 and 2019).

Skippers hold key as SA meet NZ

Proteas set for probing spin questions in first semifinal clash

KOLKATA, PTI

South African skipper Aiden Markram will be asked probing questions by his New Zealand counterpart Mitchell Santner in what promises to be an intriguing battle between two incredibly talented captains' in the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Not often does one find that captains of either side end up being the most prolific performers and Markram vs Santner will be such battle that would keep the near capacity crowd at the Eden Gardens on the edge.

The ICC event rivalry between New Zealand and South Africa reached its peak during the 50-over World Cup semifinal in 2015 when the Black Caps edged out the Proteas in a nail-biting showdown with likes of Dale Steyn and AB de Villiers left scarred for life.

However, South Africa, under the tutelage of Shukri Conrad, has developed into a menacing side, having already won the World Test Championship last year showing steely resolve.

While they haven't won a major white-ball trophy so far, the infamous chokers' tag isn't a part of their cricketing dictionary anymore.

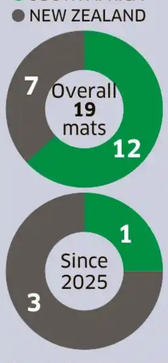
At the core of this battle are the two captains, not often the most celebrated or talked about but tactically and technically much better than all those who are feted way more.

Markram, with a strike rate of 175 plus and 268 runs, has had a devastating effect on rival bowlers during powerplay overs while Santner, with an economy rate of 6.35, has kept the batters tied in knots.

New Zealand's Mark Chapman (centre) and Daryl Mitchell (right) attend a training session ahead of their T20 World Cup semifinal against South Africa at the Eden Gardens. AFP

South Africa vs New Zealand in T20Is

SOUTH AFRICA
NEW ZEALAND



In ICC T20 World Cup

Year	Venue	Winner
2007	Durban	SA by 6 wkts
2009	Lord's	SA by 1 run
2010	Bridgetown	SA by 13 runs
2014	Chittagong	SA by 2 runs
2026	Ahmedabad	SA by 7 wkts

SA in semifinals of T20 WC

Year	Vs	Venue	Result
2009	Pak	Nottingham	Lt by 7 runs
2014	Ind	Mirpur	Lt by 6 wkts
2024	Afg	Tarouba	Won by 9 wkts

New Zealand in semifinals of T20 WC

Year	Vs	Venue	Result
2007	Pak	Cape Town	Lt by 6 wkts
2016	Eng	Delhi	Lt by 7 wkts
2021	Eng	Abu Dhabi	Won by 5 wkts
2022	Pak	Sydney	Lt by 7 wkts

Captaincy record

	Mats	Won	Lost	No Result	Win%
Aiden Markram	45	24	21	0	53.3
Mitchell Santner	51	27	18	6	52.9

LIVE 7:00 PM, STAR SPORTS

The Proteas, with a power-hitting line-up comprising Markram, Quinton De Kock, Dewald Brevis, Ryan Rickleton, Tristan Stubbs, David Miller and Marco Jansen, can give any team sleepless nights.

But Santner will have Rachin Ravindra (9 wickets at less than 7 ER), Glenn Phillips, Cole McConchie, who have all performed in unison.

Save for India, this is be the best spin attack that Proteas would face in the tournament although England with Liam Dawson and Rehan Ahmed wasn't bad either.

What New Zealand lack is a quality wrist spinner to challenge South Africa as Ish Sodhi hasn't exactly been great in the few games that he has played so far. On a belter of an Eden Gardens track, South Africa would like to chase against a New Zealand line up which played its Super Eights games on the slowish Sri Lankan tracks.

The belter at Eden will allow Finn Allen, Tim Seifert, Glenn Phillips and Daryl Mitchell to at least think of a 200-plus total that would give them a chance to contain the Proteas.

One interesting aspect would be how effective Lungi Ngidi's slower deliveries are on this track and if his wide yorkers and slow leg cutters can keep the Black Cap batters at bay.

For New Zealand, Lockie Ferguson's first spell could decide the fate of the clash.

South Africa will bank on Dewald Brevis' firepower in the crucial middle-over phase. AFP

In all the first semifinal has the perfect ingredients for a thriller that will add colour to the 'Holi-Day'.

Markram battling to separate the batter from the captain

KOLKATA, PTI: Aiden Markram has never been better as a batsman in T20Is than in the ongoing World Cup, but for that to happen, the South African skipper had to train his mind to shut the "captain" in him every time he went out to bat.

Markram, who has found his calling as an opener in T20Is, has so far scored 268 runs in the tournament at a very handsome strike-rate of 175.16 with three fifties, including one against the New Zealand in a group league game in Ahmedabad last month.

So has he been able to segregate the batter from the captain?

"It's something that I have fought with a lot over the years. Just being the batter while you're out there batting. But I think you as the captain always want to get the team over the line, and maybe because of that, you don't put all your focus into actually, just watching the ball and reacting and playing," Markram said, speaking about his internal conflict ahead of the semifinal against New Zealand here on Wednesday.

"But yeah, the little bit I've learned now from the T20 World Cup and the more recent months is to make a proper effort to separate the two," the stylish right-hander added.

Aiden Markram

He has perhaps now understood that if the "batter in him" takes over, it eventually helps the captain to win a game for his country.

"If you do your job as a batter for the team, ultimately, it will contribute, hopefully, in a winning cause. And that's where I try to keep the focus," Markram said.

About his batting in the powerplay, Markram's philosophy has been simple.

"You don't really have a choice. You have to get on with things and take the game to the opposition and try to get the team off to a really strong power play," the skipper said.

He believes that if he is around post powerplay, the chances of attacking with same intent remains.

Dar quits Pak selection committee

LAHORE, PTI: Senior selection committee member Aleem Dar has tendered his resignation to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in the wake of the national team's poor show in the T20 World Cup, according to sources.

"Former ICC elite panel umpire Dar has sent his resignation which is yet to be accepted," a well-informed source close ot the PCB said on Tuesday.

Dar and former Test players Asad Shafiq and Aaqib Javed are the members of the selection committee.

A source close to Dar said that he resigned because he was not happy with the undue authority given to the team's head coach Mike Hesson in selection matters.

"Aleem is very upset that when the World Cup squad was being selected he had resisted the inclusion of Babar Azam and Shadab Khan in the squad," the source said.

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